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(54) Title: CALLASE-RELATED DNAs AND THEIR USE IN ARTIFICIAL MALE STERILITY**(57) Abstract**

A tapetum-specific callase (β -1,3-glucanase) gene, designated A6, from *Brassica napus* and other members of the family *Brassicaceae* including *A. thaliana* has been discovered, isolated and cloned. The A6 gene encodes a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* and equivalent proteins in other *Brassicaceae* family members. Coding sequence from the gene can be driven by an appropriate promoter to induce male sterility in plants. Further, the A6 promoter can be used to drive male sterility DNA such as that coding for a nuclease, protease or glucanase. Alternatively or in addition, male sterility can be achieved by disrupting the proper expression of the A6 gene, for example by transcribing RNA which is antisense to the RNA normally transcribed from the A6 gene, or by expressing DNA coding for a ribozyme specific for the A6 gene RNA transcript.

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CALLASE-RELATED DNAs AND THEIR USE
IN ARTIFICIAL MALE STERILITY

This invention relates to recombinant, isolated and other
5 synthetic DNA useful in male-sterility systems for
plants. In particular, the invention relates to
restorable male-sterility systems. Male-sterile plants
are useful for the production of hybrid plants by sexual
hybridisation.

10 Hybrid plants have the advantages of higher yield and
better disease resistance than their parents, because of
heterosis or hybrid vigour. Crop uniformity is another
advantage of hybrid plants when the parents are
15 extensively homozygous; this leads to improved crop
management. Hybrid seed is therefore commercially
important and sells at a premium price.

20 Producing a hybrid plant entails ensuring that the female
parent does not self-fertilise. There have been many
prior proposals, mechanical, chemical and genetic, for
preventing self-pollination. Among the genetic methods
is the use of anther-specific genes or their promoters to
disrupt the normal production of pollen grains. An
25 anther-specific promoter, for example, can be used to
drive a "male-sterility DNA" at the appropriate time and
in the right place. Male sterility DNAs include those
coding for lytic enzymes, including those that lyse
proteins, nucleic acids and carbohydrates. Glucanases
30 are enzymes which break down carbohydrates.

In EP-A-0344029 (Plant Genetic Systems (PGS)) and WO-A-
9211379 (Nickerson International Seed Company Limited)
glucanase-coding DNA features among possible male-

sterility DNAs. Although many plant glucanases have been characterised and the genes cloned in some cases (eg defence-related "PR" glucanases), to date no glucanase with properties consistent with a role in microspore release has been reported. Microspore release is the process by which the immature microspores are liberated from a protective coat of $\beta(1,3)$ poly-glucan (callose) laid down by the microsporogenous cells before meiosis (Rowley, *Grana Palynol.*, 2, 3-31 (1959); and Heslop-Harrison, *Can. J. Bot.* 46, 1185-1191 (1968) and *New Phytol.*, 67, 779-786 (1968)). The anther-expressed glucanase responsible for the dissolution of this callose coat is known as callase. Callase is synthesised by the cells of the tapetum and secreted into the locule. The appearance of the enzyme activity is developmentally regulated to coincide precisely with a specific stage of microspore development.

The basis of the use of a glucanase as a sterility DNA lies in the fact that mis-timing of the appearance of callase activity is associated with certain types of male-sterility (Warmke and Overman, *J. Hered.* 63 103-108 (1972)). Two types are recognised depending on whether the appearance of glucanase activity is premature or late. Since both types are found in nature, one important attraction of glucanase as a potential sterility DNA is that it already occurs in a natural system. Although plants that fail to produce active callase have not been described in nature, mutants of this type almost certainly occur. Failure to produce callase would prevent microspore-release, thereby causing pollen abortion and male-sterility. So, preventing callase expression would form the basis of a male-sterility system.

Several studies suggest that callase is probably different from other types of glucanases, such as the "PR" glucanases. For example, callase activity may be subject to both transcriptional and post-transcriptional control. This is suggested by the fact that there is a strong relationship between locule pH, callase activity, and the timing of microspore release. (Izhar and Frankel, *Theor. and Appl. Genet.* 41, 104-108 (1971)). Locule pH and callase activity change coordinately in a developmentally regulated manner. In fertile *Petunia hybrida* anthers, the pH during meiosis is 6.8-7.0 and callase activity is undetectable. Following meiosis, at the tetrad stage, the locule pH drops in a precipitous fashion to 5.9-6.2 and callase activity increases sharply resulting in microspore release.

In certain male-sterile *Petunia* strains, the drop in pH and the appearance of callase activity are precocious and apparently result in the breakdown of microsporogenesis. Similarly, in another class of mutants, the drop in locule pH and the appearance of callase activity are both late and apparently result in the abortion of the microspores.

Thus, it appears that:

(1) the timing of the appearance of callase activity is critical for normal microspore development. (Presumably the abortion of prematurely released microspores indicates that they must reach a certain developmental stage before becoming capable of surviving without the protection of the callose coat);

(2) the decrease in locule pH parallels the appearance of callase activity; and

5 (3) the two events (production of callase activity and pH drop) are coordinately regulated in some manner.

The exact nature of the co-ordinate regulation of callase activity and pH is not known. The drop in pH may 10 activate an otherwise fully functional enzyme (passive activation). Alternatively, the enzyme may be synthesised in an inactive form, rather like the zymogen of a protease, and activated as a consequence of some pH-dependent event such as the removal of an N-terminal or 15 C-terminal addition (positive activation). The fact that callase, and possibly all glucanases, including PR-glucanases, has no detectable activity above pH 6.3, well below that encountered in the anther before microspore release may favour a passive activation 20 theory.

However, since current assays for callase are crude and rely on the measurement of activity, it is impossible to say whether the enzyme is: i) produced before microspore 25 release, but in a non-functional form for later activation; ii) synthesised in an active form but only at the precise time it is required; or iii) synthesised in advance in an active form, stored within the tapetal cells in some kind of vesicle, and released into the locule at microspore-release. The fact that pH drop and callase activity are so consistently correlated, even in cases where callase activity is found well before the normal time of microspore release, might indicate that 30 the enzyme is synthesised in an inactive form in advance

of its requirement and that the pH drop is in some way responsible for its activation. The alternative is that the drop in pH triggers the synthesis of callase in the tapetal cells. The important point is that, without 5 knowing which is correct, it is impossible to predict whether the expression of glucanases that are not callase will produce male sterility.

The fact that callase appears different in certain 10 respects from previously characterised glucanases has three important consequences:

(1) glucanases, such as defence-related "PR" 15 glucanases may not function efficiently under the conditions within the locule and may therefore not prove sufficiently useful as components of male sterility DNAs;

(2) in the event that such glucanases are active within the locule, maximum naturalness, 20 in terms of mimicking existing types of male-sterile plants, would nevertheless demand the use of the authentic callase gene. In this respect a male sterility system based on the 25 use of a callase gene would be superior to any previously described system; and

(3) systems based on preventing callase 30 expression by destroying the callase mRNA using anti-callase mRNA, ribozymes or a callase anti-sense RNA require detailed knowledge of the nucleotide sequence of the callase mRNA.

The present invention is based on the discovery and identification of a callase gene in members of the family Brassicaceae. A cDNA derived from this gene in *Brassica napus* and a genomic version of the gene from *Arabidopsis thaliana* have been cloned. These and related DNAs (including the promoter of the callase gene) can be used in the construction of artificial male-sterility systems. Fertility can be restored in the F1 generation using antisense RNA, ribozymes and RNA-binding proteins.

10

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recombinant or isolated DNA encoding an enzyme which has the activity of a callase enzyme particularly a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or 15 an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.

In this specification, the gene encoding the 53 kDa callase enzyme of *B. napus* and equivalents of that gene 20 in other members of the family *Brassicaceae* will be referred to as the A6 gene.

Preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention include the gene encoding the 53 kDa callase enzyme from 25 *B. napus* itself and the equivalent enzyme from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and their cDNAs.

The molecular weights quoted above are putative and derived from the number of amino acids believed to be 30 present, as deduced from the DNA sequence. The 53 kDa protein encoded by the A6 gene of *B. napus* has 474 amino acids. It will therefore be appreciated that the molecular weights refer to the un-glycosylated protein. In addition, the effect on any other post-translational 35 processing such as partial proteolysis is discounted.

Although the figure given above relate only to proteins of *B. napus*, those skilled in the art will readily be able to identify equivalent proteins from other members of the family *Brassicaceae*. For example, the equivalent 5 A6 gene in *A. thaliana* encodes a putative protein of 479 amino acids in length having a calculated molecular weight of 53.7 kDa. Such equivalent genes may be identified by hybridisation studies, restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) and other methods known in the 10 art. Genes or other DNA sequences, whether natural, engineered or synthetic, encoding closely equivalent proteins may for example hybridise under stringent conditions (such as at approximately 35°C to 65°C in a salt solution of approximately 0.9 molar) to the *B. napus* 15 A6 gene, or fragments of it of, for example, 10, 20, 50 or 100 nucleotides. A 15-20 nucleotide probe would be appropriate under many circumstances.

DNA sequences modified or differing from natural 20 *Brassicaceae* A6 sequences are within the scope of the invention if, for example, they satisfy the above hybridisation criteria, or would do so but for the degeneracy of the genetic code.

25 The preferred A6 coding sequence described in this specification is from *Brassica napus* or *Arabidopsis thaliana* and can be isolated by methods known in the art, for example by (a) synthesising cDNA from mRNA isolated from the stamens of *B. napus* or *A. thaliana*, (b) isolating this cDNA, (c) using this cDNA as a probe to 30 identify regions of the plant genome of a chosen member of the family *Brassicaceae* that encode stamen-specific mRNA and (d) identifying the upstream (5') regulatory regions that contain the promoter of this DNA. This

procedure also demonstrates that probes based on, or derived from, the coding regions of a stamen-specific DNA from one species of plant may be used to isolate DNA sequences encoding stamen-specific mRNAs from other 5 species.

Particularly preferred coding sequences are shown in Figure 1 (for the *B. napus* A6 gene) and Figure 4 (for the *A. thaliana* A6 gene) as will subsequently be described in 10 the examples. Those skilled in the art will, with the information given in this specification, be able to identify with sufficient precision the coding regions and to isolate and/or recombine DNA containing them.

15 DNA in accordance with the first aspect of the invention is useful in the provision of male sterility systems. By operatively linking the DNA with a suitable promoter, it can be expressed at a time that would naturally be inappropriate, for example too early. Suitable promoters 20 include tapetum-specific promoters other than the natural A6 promoter. Among the preferred promoters are those described and claimed in WO-A-9211379 and designated A3 and A9. In WO-A-9211379, the gene encoding the 12.9 kDa protein in *A. thaliana* and equivalents of that gene in 25 other members of the family *Brassicaceae* are referred to as the A3 gene; the gene encoding the 11.6 kDa protein in *A. thaliana* and equivalents of that gene in other members of the family *Brassicaceae*, including the gene encoding a 10.3 kDa protein in *B. napus*, are referred to 30 as the A9 gene. The contents of WO-A-9211379 are hereby incorporated by reference.

The discovery underlying the present invention can be harnessed in a number of other ways to provide a male-

sterility system. The A6 promoter can for example be used to drive male-sterility DNA, which does not need to be specific.

5 According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a recombinant or isolated DNA sequence comprising a promoter which naturally drives the expression of a callase enzyme, particularly a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein
10 in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.

Because of the natural specificity of the regulation of expression of the A6 gene, it is not necessary for the A6 promoter to be linked to specific disrupter DNA to provide a useful male-sterility system (although it can be); non-specific disrupter DNA can be used.
15

20 A6 promoters from other members of the family *Brassicaceae* and modified A6 promoters can be used, and if necessary located or identified and isolated as described above for the A6 coding sequences, *mutatis mutandis*. Again, preferred promoters are from *B. napus* and *A. thaliana* and used naturally to drive the coding sequences shown in Figures 1 and 4, which will be
25 described later.

30 A6 promoter-containing DNA in accordance with the invention can, as indicated above, be used to confer male sterility on plants, particularly those belonging to the family *Brassicaceae*, in a variety of ways as will be discussed below. In an important embodiment of the invention, therefore, a promoter as described above is operatively linked to DNA which, when expressed, causes male sterility.

Since an effective sterility system is complete, propagation of the seed parent must proceed either by asexual means or via the pollination of the male-sterile by an isogenic male-fertile line, and the subsequent identification or selection of male sterile plants among the offspring. Where vegetative propagation is practical, the present invention forms a complete system for hybrid production. Where fertility restoration is necessary to produce a seed crop, the present invention forms the basis of a new male sterility system. In some seed crops where the level of cross pollination is high, seed mixtures may enable restoration to be bypassed. The male sterility will be particularly useful in crops where restoration of fertility is not required, such as in the vegetable *Brassica* spp., and such other edible plants as lettuce, spinach, and onions.

DNA in accordance with the invention and incorporating the A6 promoter can drive male sterility DNA thereby producing male sterile plants, which can be used in hybrid production. The promoters are highly tapetum-specific and so the sterility DNA is only expressed in the tapetum. The control of expression is very strong and the DNA is not expressed in other cells of the plant. The system prevents the production of viable pollen grains. All transformed plants and their progeny are male sterile; there is no problem with meiotic segregation.

A construct comprising a promoter operatively linked to a male sterility DNA can be transformed into plants (particularly those of the genus *Brassica*, but also other genera such as *Nicotiana* and *Hordeum*) by methods which may be well known in themselves. This transformation results in the production of plants, the cells of which

contain a foreign chimeric DNA sequence composed of the promoter and a male sterility DNA. Male-sterility DNA encodes an RNA, protein or polypeptide which, when produced or over-produced in a stamen cell of the plant, prevents the normal development of the stamen cell.

5 The A6 promoter may be used to drive a variety of male sterility DNA sequences which code for RNAs, proteins or polypeptides which bring about the failure of mechanisms to produce viable male gametes. The invention is not
10 limited by the sequence driven, but a number of classes and particular examples of male sterility promoter-
 drivable sequences are preferred.

15 For example, the drivable male sterility DNA may encode a lytic enzyme. The lytic enzyme may cause degradation of one or more biologically important molecules, such as macromolecules including nucleic acid, protein (or glycoprotein), carbohydrate and (in some circumstances) lipid.

20 25 Ribonuclease (such as RNase T1 and barnase) are examples of enzymes which cause lysis of RNA. Examples of enzymes which lyse DNA include exonucleases and endonucleases, whether site-specific such as EcoRI or non-site-specific.

30 25 Glucanases other than the callase to whose coding sequence a promoter of the invention is naturally linked represent examples of enzymes which cause lysis of a carbohydrate. The enzyme glucanase (callase) is naturally produced in anthers where it functions to release the young microspores from a protective coat of poly-glucan laid down before meiosis. The appearance of the enzyme activity is developmentally regulated to coincide with the correct stage of microspore

development. One important attraction of glucanase as a potential sterility DNA is that plants are found in nature that are male-sterile due to mutations causing mistiming of callase expression and the destruction of the microspores. Two types are recognised depending on whether the appearance of callase activity is premature or late. The expression of many genes, including those expressed within the anther, exhibit various patterns of temporal regulation. Therefore, in order to use callase as a sterility DNA, the promoter chosen to drive expression of the gene must provide an appropriate developmental regulation of glucanase activity, preferably by mimicking the pattern of expression found in association with natural male-sterility. One means of achieving male sterility is to isolate the promoter from a tapetum-specific gene with the same pattern of expression as found for glucanase activity in male-sterile mutant plants. Since late expression of a glucanase is unlikely to produce sterility in plants with a functional anther glucanase gene, the sterility factor would require a promoter capable of driving transcription before the appearance of normal glucanase activity. In the RM cms mutant of *Petunia* (Izhar, S. and Frankel, R. *Theor. Appl. Genet.*, 41 104-108 (1971)) callase expression within the anther first appears at the end of meiotic prophase, and increases to a maximum by the completion of meiosis. This pattern of expression contrasts with that in normal *Petunia* plants, where glucanase activity within the anthers appears concomitantly with the breakdown of the tetrads and the release of the young microspores. The aberrant pattern of callase activity found in the cms mutant is thought to be responsible for the destruction of the microspores and male sterility. Thus, to mimic this mutation using a

sterility DNA encoding a glucanase enzyme requires a promoter capable of driving transcription of the male sterility DNA within the anthers, and preferably within the tapetum, during the phase of anther development between prophase of meiosis and the appearance of the tetrad of microspores; the A3 and A9 promoters discussed above are therefore well suited to drive this gene. A tapetum-specific (or at least anther-specific) promoter is also advantageous since $\beta(1,3)$ -glucans are found elsewhere within plants, for example in phloem sieve elements, where they presumably perform essential functions.

The spatial regulation of the enzyme should also ensure access to the target cells. Secretion into the locular space is ensured by the provision in a preferred embodiment, of the natural or any other suitable signal sequence in a translational fusion with the glucanase coding sequence.

DNA encoding glucanase is advantageous as male sterility DNA, as it has no product which is cytotoxic outside the target cell. Glucanase as a male sterility DNA mimics natural systems and is inherently less destructive than for example ribonuclease, and so does not present such a problem if 'leakage' occurs into other cells.

Actinidin is an example of a protease, DNA coding for which can be suitable male sterility DNA. Other examples include papain zymogen and papain active protein.

Lipases whose corresponding nucleic acids may be useful as male sterility DNAs include phospholipase A₂.

Male sterility DNA does not have to encode a lytic enzyme. Other examples of male sterility DNA encode enzymes which catalyse the synthesis of phytohormones, such as isopentyl transferase, which is involved in cytokinin synthesis, and one or more of the enzymes involved in the synthesis of auxin. DNA coding for a lipoxygenase or other enzymes having a deleterious effect may also be used.

Other male sterility DNAs include antisense sequences. Introducing the coding region of a gene in the reverse orientation to that found in nature can result in the down-regulation of the gene and hence the production of less or none of the gene product. The RNA transcribed from antisense DNA is capable of binding to, and destroying the function of, a sense RNA version of the sequence normally found in the cell thereby disrupting function. Examples of such anti-sense DNAs are the anti-sense DNAs of the A6 gene produced in the anther under control of the A6 promoter. Since this gene is normally expressed in the tapetum, antisense to it may be expected to disrupt tapetal function and result in male sterility.

It is not crucial for antisense DNA solely to be transcribed at the time when the natural sense transcription product is being produced. Antisense RNA will in general only bind when its sense complementary strand, and so will only have its toxic effect when the sense RNA is transcribed. Antisense DNA corresponding to some or all of the DNA encoding the A6 gene product may therefore be produced not only while the A6 gene is being expressed. Such antisense DNA may be expressed constitutively, under the control of any appropriate promoter.

According to a further aspect of the invention, therefore, there is provided antisense nucleic acid which includes a transcribable strand of DNA complementary to at least part of the strand of DNA that is naturally transcribed in a gene encoding a callase enzyme, such as a 53 kDa callase enzyme in *B. napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.

Antisense DNA in accordance with this aspect of the invention may be under the control of any suitable promoter which permits transcription during, but not necessarily only during, tapetum development. As indicated above, the promoter may therefore be constitutive, but the use of a tapetum-specific promoter such as A3 or A9 as described above in relation to the second aspect of the invention is certainly not excluded and may be preferred for even greater control. Such antisense DNA would generally be useful in conferring male sterility on members of the family *Brassicaceae*.

A still further example of male sterility DNA encodes an RNA enzyme (known as a ribozyme) capable of highly specific cleavage against a given target sequence (Haseloff and Gerlach *Nature* 334 585-591 (1988). Like antisense DNA, ribozyme DNA (coding in this instance for a ribozyme which is targeted against the RNA encoded by the A6 gene) does not have to be expressed only at the time of expression of the A6 gene. Again, it may be possible to use any appropriate promoter to drive ribozyme-encoding DNA, including one which is adapted for constitutive expression.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is therefore provided DNA encoding a ribozyme capable of

specific cleavage of RNA encoded by a gene encoding a callase enzyme, such as a 53 kDa callase enzyme in *B. napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*. Such ribozyme-encoding DNA would generally be useful in conferring male sterility on members of the family *Brassicaceae*.

In preferred embodiments of DNA sequences of this invention, including those comprising the A6 promoter-male sterility DNA construct, 3' transcription regulation signals, including a polyadenylation signal, may be provided. Preferred 3' transcription regulation signals are derived from the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus 35S gene. It should be recognised that other 3' transcription regulation signals could also be used.

The antisense nucleic acid and ribozyme-encoding nucleic acid described above are examples of a more general principle: according to another aspect of the invention, there is provided DNA which causes (for example on its expression) selective disruption of the proper expression of the callase, or in preferred embodiments A6, gene.

Recombinant DNA in accordance with the invention may be in the form of a vector. The vector may for example be a plasmid, cosmid or phage. Vectors will frequently include one or more selectable markers to enable selection of cells transfected (or transformed: the terms are used interchangeably in this specification) with them and, preferably, to enable selection of cells harbouring vectors incorporating heterologous DNA. Appropriate start and stop signals will generally be present. Additionally, if the vector is intended for expression, sufficient regulatory sequences to drive expression will

be present; however, DNA in accordance with the invention will generally be expressed in plant cells, and so microbial host expression would not be among the primary objectives of the invention, although it is not ruled 5 out. Vectors not including regulatory sequences are useful as cloning vectors.

Cloning vectors can be introduced into *E. coli* or another suitable host which facilitate their manipulation. 10 According to another aspect of the invention, there is therefore provided a host cell transfected or transformed with DNA as described above.

DNA in accordance with the invention can be prepared by 15 any convenient method involving coupling together successive nucleotides, and/or ligating oligo- and/or poly-nucleotides, including *in vitro* processes, but recombinant DNA technology forms the method of choice.

20 Ultimately, DNA in accordance with the invention (whether (i) A6 promoter plus male sterility gene, (ii) antisense DNA to A6 gene or ribozyme DNA targeted to A6 RNA) will be introduced into plant cells, by any suitable means. According to a further aspect of the invention, there is 25 provided a plant cell including DNA in accordance with the invention as described above.

30 Preferably, DNA is transformed into plant cells using a disarmed Ti-plasmid vector and carried by *Agrobacterium* by procedures known in the art, for example as described in EP-A-0116718 and EP-A-0270822. Alternatively, the foreign DNA could be introduced directly into plant cells using an electrical discharge apparatus. This method is preferred where *Agrobacterium* is ineffective, for example

where the recipient plant is monocotyledenous. Any other method that provides for the stable incorporation of the DNA within the nuclear DNA of any plant cell of any species would also be suitable. This includes species of plant which are not currently capable of genetic transformation.

Preferably DNA in accordance with the invention also contains a second chimeric gene (a "marker" gene) that enables a transformed plant containing the foreign DNA to be easily distinguished from other plants that do not contain the foreign DNA. Examples of such a marker gene include antibiotic resistance (Herrera-Estrella et al, EMBO J. 2, 987-995 (1983)), herbicide resistance (EP-A-0242246) and glucuronidase (GUS) expression (EP-A-0344029). Expression of the marker gene is preferably controlled by a second promoter which allows expression in cells other than the tapetum, thus allowing selection of cells or tissue containing the marker at any stage of regeneration of the plant. The preferred second promoter is derived from the gene which encodes the 35S subunit of Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV) coat protein. However any other suitable second promoter could be used.

A whole plant can be regenerated from a single transformed plant cell, and the invention therefore provides transgenic plants (or parts of them, such as propagating material) including DNA in accordance with the invention as described above. The regeneration can proceed by known methods. When the transformed plant flowers it can be seen to be male sterile by the inability to produce viable pollen. Where pollen is produced it can be confirmed to be non-viable by the inability to effect seed set on a recipient plant.

Male fertility curtailed by means of the present invention may be restored by an appropriate restoration system, whose nature will correspond to the particular manner used to render the plant male-sterile. Specific
5 and preferred restoration systems described below are based on different mechanisms: antisense RNA and ribozymes.

antisense RNA: where the disrupter gene encodes a non-anther mRNA, such as the mRNA for the protein actinidin, restoration is provided by crossing into the male-sterile plant a gene encoding an anti-sense RNA specific to the disrupter mRNA driven by a tapetum-specific promoter with the appropriate temporal regulation. This will lead to
10 the destruction of the sense mRNA and restore fertility. This approach is not applicable where the disrupter is prematurely expressed callase since expression of a callase anti-sense RNA will lead to the destruction of both the target disrupter callase mRNA and the normal
15 callase mRNA which is required for microspore release and the production of viable pollen grains. Thus fertility would not be restored.
20

ribozymes: this approach is more generally applicable since the target site for ribozymes is small and therefore can be engineered into any mRNA. This allows in principal any introduced mRNA to be specifically targeted for destruction. Thus mRNAs encoding non-specific disrupter functions such as actinidin are destroyed and fertility restored by crossing in a gene
25 encoding ribozymes specific to the actinidin mRNA. Where the disrupter is callase, restoration is achieved by crossing in genes encoding ribozymes specific to a short synthetic sequence introduced into the non-translated

leader of the prematurely expressed disrupter callase mRNA. Since this sequence is not present in the normal unmodified callase mRNA correctly timed callase activity is unaffected and fertility is restored.

5

Some preferred features of the invention have been described only in relation to one aspect of it. It will be appreciated that preferences extend to all aspects of the invention *mutatis mutandis*.

10

The invention will now be illustrated by a number of non-limiting examples, which refer to the accompanying drawings, in which:

15

Figure 1 shows the DNA sequence of the *B. napus* cDNA A6 together with the deduced protein sequence of the ORF contained in A6;

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Figure 2 shows an alignment of the deduced primary structure of the *B. napus* and *A. thaliana* A6 genes with the primary structure of previously described glucanases; the following is a key:

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Bn A6: 53 kDa anther-specific protein of *B. napus*

At G62: Corresponding A6 protein from *A. thaliana*

NPGLUC: Tobacco β -1,3 glucanase (basic) (De Loose et al., *Gene* 70 13-23, (1988))

BEAN: Bean β -1,3 glucanase Edington et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 16, 81-94 (1991)

30

PR-Q: Tobacco β -1,3 glucanase (extra-cellular) (Payne et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 15 797-808 (1990))

BARLEY: Hoj et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 13, 31-42 (1989);

5

Figure 3 shows a restriction enzyme map of the *A. thaliana* genomic clone G6.2. Only relevant sites are shown and these may not be unique in G6.2. The position of the coding region of A6 is indicated as a filled box. Also the extent of the insert cloned into the plasmid pDIH9 is shown;

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Figure 4 shows the DNA sequence and putative primary structure of the *A. thaliana* A6 gene. The underlined sequence conforms to a TATA box motif;

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Figure 5a shows a comparison of the DNA sequences of the *B. napus* cDNA A6 with the *A. thaliana* A6 gene. The underlined trinucleotides indicate the start and stop positions of the A6 coding sequences;

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Figure 5b shows a comparison of the putative polypeptide encoded by *B. napus* cDNAs A6 with that encoded by the *A. thaliana* A6 gene;

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Figure 6 shows the construction of a chimeric gene containing a transcriptional fusion between the A6 promoter and an *E. coli* gene encoding β -glucuronidase;

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Figure 7a refers to Example 3a and shows the construction of a chimeric gene containing a transcriptional fusion between the A6 promoter and a sequence encoding mature barnase;

Figure 7b refers to Example 3b and shows the construction of a chimeric gene containing a transcriptional fusion between the A6 promoter and a sequence encoding actininidin;

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Figure 8 shows the construction of chimeric genes between tapetum-specific promoters and *A. thaliana* callase: a) Transcriptional fusion between the A9 promoter and callase; b) Transcriptional fusions between the A9 and A6 promoters with callase lacking the sequence encoding the protein's C-terminal extension; and

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Figure 9 shows the construction of plasmids pWP80, pWP83 and pWP88.

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Abbreviations used for restriction enzymes in the drawings are:

B, *Bam*HI; Bg, *Bgl*III; C, *Cla*I; Hd, *Hind*III; K, *Kpn*I; N, *Not*I; Nc, *Nco*I; Np, *Nsp*I; Nr, *Nru*I; P, *Pst*I; RI, *Eco*RI; RV, *Eco*RV; S, *Sst*I; Sa, *Sal*I; Sp, *Sph*I; Sm, *Sma*I; SII, *Sac*II; X, *Xho*I; Xb, *Xba*I.

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Example 1 - Isolation of a cDNA encoding the anther-specific $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase (callase) from *Brassica napus* and isolation of the corresponding gene from *Arabidopsis thaliana*

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Anther-specific cDNAs have been isolated by differential screening of *Brassica napus* cDNA libraries constructed from RNA extracted from dissected anthers as described below (Scott et al, *Plant Mol. Biol.* in press). cDNA clone A6 was isolated from a library constructed from anthers that were 1.8-2.0 mm in length. This library was constructed in the vector Lambda ZapII (Stratagene). The A6 cDNA was used as a probe to isolate homologous genes from an *A. thaliana* genomic library constructed in the vector Lambda Dash (Stratagene).

Materials and methods

5 Plant material. All seeding material for nucleic acid isolation was obtained from 2-3 week old plants grown in a controlled environment growth cabinet with 18h photoperiod at 24°C. Seedling RNA for differential screening and Northern blot analysis was obtained from *B. napus oleifera* var. "Topaz". Male fertile buds were collected from field grown plants of *B. napus oleifera* 10 var. "Lictor" (Nickersons Seeds, Cambridge, UK). Male-sterile buds were obtained from field grown *B. napus* var. CMS "ogura" (Nickersons Seeds, Cambridge, UK) plants.

15 Dissection of anthers. For cDNA library construction, flower spikes were quickly harvested and kept at 4°C until required, but no longer than 5h. Anthers were dissected from appropriately sized buds using fine forceps and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen.

20 Collection of buds. Large samples of complete whorls of buds, at a stage immediately prior to the opening of first flowers, were frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

25 Cytological staging of anthers and buds. The developmental stage of buds of predetermined length was assessed by light microscopic examination of sporogenous cells, microspores or pollen grains extruded from whole anthers squashed in the presence of aceto-orcein or acridine orange. Accurate determination of bud length was performed using a low-powered light microscope equipped with a calibrated eyepiece graticule. Bud lengths stated were measured from the base of the pedicle 30 to the tip of the outermost sepal.

RNA isolation and analysis. Material intended for low resolution Northern dot blot analysis or for mRNA isolation was ground to a fine powder in a mortar cooled with liquid nitrogen. Total RNA was isolated from the 5 powder using a phenol based method as described previously (Draper et al "Plant Genetic Transformation and Gene Expression: A Laboratory Manual", Blackwell Scientific Publishers, Oxford (1988)). Poly(A)⁺ RNA was purified by two rounds of oligo(dT)-cellulose 10 chromatography essentially as described in the Maniatis et al manual. RNA for high resolution dot blots was isolated according to the method of Verwoerd et al, *Nuc. Acids Res.* 17 2362 (1989)).

cDNA library construction and screening. cDNAs were 15 synthesised from poly(A)⁺ RNA using (Amersham) or (Pharmacia) cDNA synthesis kits, according to the manufacturers instructions. cDNAs were ligated into EcoRI cleaved dephosphorylated lambda Zap I (Stratagene) 20 ("sporogenesis" library) or lambda Zap II (Stratagene) ("microspore-development" library) and packaged using Amersham in vitro packaging extracts. (When cloning into lambda Zap II, EcoRI linkers (Pharmacia Ltd) were used; these linkers also contain internal NotI sites, so the 25 entire cDNA can be recovered as a NotI fragment, providing that the cDNA contains no internal NotI sites.) Clones were screened differentially, on duplicate HYBOND-N filters (Amersham) with [³²P]-labelled single-stranded cDNA probe prepared from either the appropriate anther 30 poly(a)⁺ RNA or seedling poly(A)⁺ RNA according to Sargent *Methods in Enzymol.* 152 423-432 (1987)). (The expression HYBOND-N is a trade mark.)

5 RNA dot and gel blots. Total RNA for dot-blots was spotted onto HYBOND N (Amersham) according to the manufacturers instructions. Northern gels were run and RNA transferred to HYBOND-N according to Fourney (BRL Focus 10 5-7 (1988)). Hybridisation and washing of HYBOND-N filters was according to manufacturers instructions.

10 In situ hybridisation. For embedding and sectioning *B. napus* buds were frozen in CRYO-M-BED (TAAB Laboratories Equipment Ltd). (The expression CRYO-M-BED is a trade mark.) Sections were cut nominally 10 μm thick, mounted on subbed slides (Van Prooijen-Knegt et al *Histochemical J.* 14 333-344 (1983)) fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and dehydrated. [^{35}S]rUTP (>1000 Ci/mmol, Amersham SJ.1303) labelled sense and anti-sense RNA probes were transcribed from the T3 and T7 promoters of BLUESCRIPT SK⁻ (Stratagene), in which the cDNAs are cloned. (The expression BLUESCRIPT SK⁻ is a trade mark.) Following transcription, probes were cleaved by alkaline hydrolysis to generate probe fragments approximately 150bp in length. The hybridisation solution was 50% formamide, 300mM NaCl, 10mM Na₂HPO₄ pH 6.8, 10mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 5mM EDTA, 0.02% bovine serum albumin, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 10mM dithiothreitol, 10% dextran sulphate, 0.7mg/ml *E. coli* tRNA, 50-100ng/ml probe stock (6.7×10^5 cpm/ng probe). Sections were hybridised in 30 μl hybridisation solution at 50°C for 16h. Slides were washed 3x1h at 50°C in 50% formamide, 300mM NaCl, 10mM Na₂HPO₄ pH 6.8, 10mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 and then rinsed in RNase A buffer to remove formamide. RNase A treatment, (150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ RNase A in 500mM NaCl, 10mM Tris HCl pH 7.5), was carried out at 37°C for 1h. The slides were then washed twice in 2xSSC (0.3M NaCl, 0.03M Na citrate, pH

7.0) at 65°C for 30 min, dehydrated through graded alcohols and dried. For autoradiography, slides were dipped at 45°C in ILFORD K5 nuclear track emulsion (1g/ml in 1:59 glycerol:water mix). (The expression ILFORD K5 is a trade mark.) Exposure time was between 2 and 14 days. Development was in KODAK D19. (The expression KODAK D19 is a trade mark.) Following development sections were stained with methylene blue and made permanent.

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a) Analysis of the *B. napus* A6 cDNA.

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Northern hybridisation analysis using RNA extracted from *B. napus* anthers, pollen, carpels and seedlings indicated that A6 was only expressed in anthers of length 1.5-2.0mm with maximal expression at about 1.8mm. Thus A6 temporal expression spans the period in anther development when the microsporocytes are in meiotic division to early microspore interphase. The A6 cDNA is 1532 bp in length and contains an open-reading frame (ORF) extending from position 1- 1424 bp (Figure 1) suggesting that this clone is not full-length. The estimated size of *B. napus* A6 mRNA from Northern gel blots is about 1700 bp, again suggesting that this clone is not full-length. The ORF encodes a polypeptide of 474 amino-acids with a molecular weight of 53 kda, which is homologous to pathogenesis-related (PR) and other previously characterised $\beta(1,3)$ -glucanases (Figure 2) strongly suggesting that A6 encodes the anther-specific $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase (callase). As will be described in Example 6 below, the production of anti-sense RNA to the A6 transcript in anthers of transgenic plants produces male sterile plants. These plants have a phenotype that is consistent, at the biochemical and cytological level, with the assertion that A6 encodes callase.

The alignment of A6 with $\beta(1,3)$ glucanases shows that A6 is significantly larger due to the presence of a long C-terminal extension, the beginning of this extension corresponding to the C-terminus of mature $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase enzymes. The level of homology of A6 to other glucanases although very significant (33 % identity over the region of homology) is however lower than that seen between the most divergent previously isolated $\beta(1,3)$ glucanases (51% identity). Thus the A6 protein is not recognised by antibodies raised to the acidic PR glucanase of tomato or to the basic hormonally induced $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase of tobacco. No hybridisation is observed to *B. napus* anther RNA or to the *B. napus* cDNA library using ^{32}P labelled *A. thaliana* genomic glucanase sequences (provided by F. Ausubel) or using ^{32}P labelled pGL43, a clone containing a basic $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase from *N. tabacum* (Shinshi et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85, 5541-5545 (1988)). Thus it is not possible to clone anther-specific callases by using available $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase sequences or antibodies. However the alignment of A6 with other glucanases shown in Figure 2 enables the identification of amino-acids that are likely to be conserved in all glucanases. This allows the design of oligonucleotides that will be specific probes for $\beta(1,3)$ glucanases and thus enable the cloning of the anther-specific glucanase cDNAs or genes from other plant species. Callase can be distinguished from other $\beta(1,3)$ glucanases by virtue of its unique spatial and temporal pattern of expression coupled with the possession of a longer C-terminal extension than other $\beta(1,3)$ glucanases.

b) Isolation and characterisation of homologous genes to A6 in *A. thaliana*.

Two genomic clones were isolated from an *A. thaliana* genomic library that hybridised to the *B. napus* A6 cDNA. One, G6.2, was analysed in detail (Figure 3). A 3.2 kb EcoRI fragment was subcloned into EcoRI-cut pTZ18U (Pharmacia) forming pDIH9 (Figure 3), and the coding region of A6 and 881 bp upstream was sequenced (Figure 4). Comparison of the *B. napus* and *A. thaliana* A6 sequences showed that they were 85% identical in the coding regions (Figure 5a) at the nucleotide level and 83% identical at the protein level (Figure 5b). The sequence alignment shows that the ORF encoded by the *B. napus* cDNA is almost full-length and probably lacks about 5 residues at the N-terminus. The *A. thaliana* A6 gene encodes a product of 479 amino-acids with a predicted molecular weight of 53.7 kDa. The A6 proteins have a hydrophobic N-terminal sequence that conforms to the rules defined by von Heijne, (*J. Mol. Biol.* 184, 99-105 (1985)) for signal sequences. Callase is secreted from the tapetum into the anther locule and therefore should possess such a sequence.

The other genomic clone isolated (G6.1) was partially sequenced and was shown to be virtually identical to G6.2 both within the A6 coding region and also within the putative A6 promoter region.

Example 2 - The use of the A6 promoter to drive the expression of Glucuronidase in anthers of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Brassica napus*, *Hordeum vulgare*, *Nicotiana tabacum* and *Zea mays*

To demonstrate that the putative promoter region of A6 is capable of driving the expression of a foreign gene in *A. thaliana*, *B. napus*, *H. vulgare* and *N. tabacum* a

transcriptional fusion of the promoter was made to the *Escherichia coli* gene encoding β -glucuronidase (GUS). An 844 bp EcoRI-NspI fragment (position 1-884 bp in Figure 4) containing the putative A6 promoter is excised from pDIH9 and the ends rendered blunt with Klenow. This fragment is cloned into the SmaI site of pBluescript forming pDIH10 (Figure 6). The A6 promoter is then cloned as a SalI, BamHI fragment into pBI101.1 (Jefferson et al., EMBO J. 6, 3901-3907 (1987)) forming pDIH11 (Figure 6). This plasmid contains the A6 promoter transcriptionally fused to GUS. pDIH11 is then transformed into *N. tabacum*, *A. thaliana*, *B. napus*, *H. vulgare* and *Z. mays* using standard transformation techniques. Transformation of *H. vulgare* is achieved using a microprojectile gun. Analysis of transformed plants demonstrates that GUS activity is localised to anther tissues, specifically to tapetal cells. The temporal regulation of GUS activity is identical to the temporal expression observed for the A6 genes as described in Example 1. The A6 promoter drives transcription in tapetal cells through a period commencing at the meiocyte stage of development and terminating during early microspore interphase.

25 **The use of the A6 promoter to create male sterile plants.**

Tapetum-specific promoters can be employed in a variety of ways to generate male sterile plants. For example, male sterility can be achieved by using the tapetum-specific promoter to express antisense and sense transcripts corresponding to tapetal messages (see Example 6), drive the premature expression of glucanase activity (see Example 4) and drive the expression of cytotoxic agents such as proteases and nucleases.

Example 3 - Construction of a chimeric A6-Barnase gene and a chimeric A6-actinidin gene and their expression in transgenic plants

5 To demonstrate the utility of the A6 promoter it is used to drive the expression of the RNAase, barnase, and the protease, actinidin, in tapetal cells.

10 Example 3A - Construction and expression in transgenic plants of chimeric gene fusion between the tapetum-specific A6 promoter and barnase

15 To demonstrate the utility of the A6 promoter it is used to drive the expression of the RNAase, barnase, in tapetal cells. Use of the barnase gene to create male sterile plants has been described in patent application EP-A-0344029 (Plant Genetic Systems) and has been published by Mariani et al. *Nature* 347, 737-741.

20 The oligonucleotide primers

5' GGGTCTAGACCATGGGCACAGGTTATCAACACGTTGACGGG 3' and

5' GTAAAACGACGCCAGTGCC 3'

are used in a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to generate a fragment encoding barstar and the mature barnase product from the plasmid pTG2 (Horovitz et al. *J. Mol. Biol.* 216, 1031-1044 (1990)). The first primer is homologous to nucleotides 195-221 bp of Figure 1 in Hartley R.W. *J. Mol. Biol.* 202, 913-915. The second primer is homologous to a sequence immediately next to the HindIII site of pTZ18U (Pharmacia). The PCR fragment is digested with XbaI and cloned into XbaI-cut pDIH12 forming pDIH13 in which the A6 promoter is transcriptionally fused to the mature barnase sequence (Figure 7). (pDIH12 is constructed by cloning the KpnI, XbaI fragment of pDIH10 (Figure 6) into KpnI, XbaI-cut

pWP80 (see below and WO-A-9211379).) This gene fusion is transferred to pBin19 (Bevan et al 1984) by ligating the EcoRV fragment of pDIH13 to *SmaI*-cut pBin19. The pBin19 derivative plasmid is transformed into *N. tabacum*,
5 *B. napus*, *H. vulgare* and *Z. mays* where expression of barnase in transgenic plants results in the degradation of the tapetal and microsporocyte cells of the anther causing male sterility.

10 **Plasmids pWP80, pWP83 and pWP88**

pWP80, an intermediate vector designed to express sense and anti-sense RNA using the *A. thaliana* tapetum-specific A9 promoter, was constructed as follows. The isolation of the *A. thaliana* tapetum-specific A9 promoter is described in WO-A-9211379. To construct pWP80, pWP72 (WO-A-9211379) is digested with *Xba*I and religated, thus removing the *Bam*HI site in the polylinker and forming pWP78 (Figure 9). The *Kpn*I, *Sst*I (the *Sst*I end rendered blunt with Klenow) A9 promoter fragment of pWP78 is ligated into *Kpn*I, *Sma*I-cut pJIT60, forming pWP80 (Figure 9). This intermediate vector consists of a 936 bp A9 promoter fragment fused to a polylinker derived from pBluescript with a 35S CaMV polyadenylation signal. pJIT60 is identical to pJIT30 (Guerineau et al., Plant Mol. Biol. 15, 127-136 (1990)) except that the CaMV 35S promoter of pJIT30 is replaced by a double 35S CaMV promoter.
15
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25

30 pWP83, an intermediate vector to express sense and anti-sense RNA using the constitutive CaMV 35S promoter, was constructed as follows. The A9 promoter of pWP80 is replaced by a 'double' CaMV 35S promoter by cloning the 785 bp *Kpn*I, *Xba*I fragment of pJIT60 into *Kpn*I, *Xba*I-cut pWP80, forming pWP83 (Figure 9).
35

pWP88, an intermediate vector to express sense and anti-sense RNA using the A3 promoter, was constructed as follows. The isolation of the *A. thaliana* tapetum-specific A3 promoter is described in WO-A-9211379. The 5 CaMV promoter of pWP83 is replaced with the A3 promoter by cloning the 745 bp *Kpn*I, *Hind*III fragment of pWP87 (WO-A-9211379) into *Kpn*I, *Hind*III-cut pWP83, forming pWP88 (Figure 9).

10 pWP80, pWP83 and pWP88 are therefore identical apart from the promoter region and surrounding restriction enzyme sites.

15 Example 3B - Construction and expression in transgenic plants of chimeric gene fusion between the tapetum-specific A6 promoter and actinidin

The entire cDNA clone encoding actinidin is isolated as an EcoRI, BamHI fragment from pK1W1450 (Podivinsky et al, 20 *Nuc. Acids Res.* 17, 8363 (1989)) and is recloned into EcoRI, BamHI-cut pBluescript KS- (Stratagene) forming pWP100. The oligonucleotide primers

25 5' GGGACTAGTCCATGGGTTGCCCAAATCC 3' and
5' AATACGACTCACTATAG 3'

are used in a PCR reaction to generate a DNA fragment containing the entire coding region of actinidin, but with the sequence immediately before the initiating 'ATG' 30 of the gene mutated to an *Spe*I site. The first primer is complementary to positions 38-55 bp of Figure 1 (Podivinsky et al 1989), and the second is homologous to a sequence immediately next to the *Kpn*I site of pBluescript KS-. This PCR fragment is digested with *Spe*I and *Sst*II and cloned into *Xba*I, *Sst*II-cut pDIH12 forming 35

pA6act (Figure 7B). The A6-actininidin chimeric gene is then recovered as a EcoRV fragment obtained by a partial EcoRV digest of pA6act and cloned into SmaI-cut pBin19 (Bevan et al 1984). The pBin19 derivative plasmid is 5 transformed into *N. tabacum*, *B. napus* and *H. vulgare* where expression of actininidin in transgenic plants results in male sterility.

10 Examples 4 to 9 - Use of the coding sequence of the A6 gene to produce male sterile plants

15 Example 4A - Construction and expression in transgenic plants of chimeric gene fusion between the tapetum-specific promoter A9 and the A6 gene

The temporal pattern of expression of the tapetum-specific A3 and A9 genes determined from Northern analysis and promoter-GUS fusions show that both promoters are active at stages of anther development 20 prior to the release of microspores from tetrads (see WO-A-9211379). Thus either promoter is suitable for driving the premature expression of $\beta(1,3)$ glucanase in anthers leading to male sterility (see discussion earlier in description). Chimeric fusions between these promoters 25 and either the *B. napus* A6 cDNA or the *A. thaliana* A6 gene coding region can be constructed. In Figure 8a the construction of an A9 promoter fusion to the *A. thaliana* A6 gene is shown. Oligonucleotide primers are designed to the 5' untranslated leader sequence of the *A. thaliana* 30 gene and to the 3' end of this gene such that a complete A6 gene can be obtained by use of the polymerase chain reaction from pDIH9. The primers are engineered with the restriction sites *Spe*I and *Sst*II for cloning the PCR A6 gene into vectors containing the tapetum-specific

promoters. The 5' primer also contains a GTC sequence (underlined) which, in RNA, is a target for cleavage by a ribozyme described in Example 5.

5 The 5' oligonucleotide sequence is:-

5' GGGACTAGTGTCACGCTGACAAAGACATGTCTCTTC 3'

The 3' sequence is:-

5' CCCCGCGGTCACAGAGTAACGCTCGGAAACTTGC 3'

10 The A6 PCR fragment is cloned as an 1548 bp *SpeI*, *SstII* fragment into *XbaI*, *SstII*-cut pWP80 (see WO-A-9211379), forming a transcriptional fusion between the A9 and A6 genes (Figure 8a). This construct is transferred to
15 pBin19 as a *SstI*, *XhoI* fragment.

20 Example 4B - Construction and expression in transgenic plants of chimeric gene fusions of the A9 or the A6 promoter to the A6 gene which lacks the sequences encoding the C-terminal extension of the anther-specific glucanase

25 The A6 protein has a long C-terminal extension when aligned against other previously sequenced plant glucanases (Figure 2). Extracellular glucanases do not have C-terminal extensions in contrast to those known to be located in the plant vacuole. The C-terminal extension in the anther-specific glucanase may thus be required for targeting to an intracellular storage body prior to its
30 release into the locale. Removal of the C-terminal extension of A6 may lead to the immediate export of the glucanase into the locale, so that the A6 promoter in addition to the A3 and A9 promoters will cause male sterility when expressing such a construct. Figure 8b
35 shows the construction of a chimeric genes between the A9

and A6 promoters and the anther-specific glucanase that lacks the C-terminal extension. The oligonucleotide primers:-

5' GGGACTAGTGTACCGCTGACAAAGACATGTCTCTTC 3' and
5' CCCCCGGTTAGAAATCTACGTGTAGATTGG 3'

are used to PCR an 1208 bp fragment from pDIH9. This is either cloned as an *SpeI*, *SstII* fragment into pWP80 or as an *SpeI*, *SstII* fragment into pDIH12. Both chimeric genes are transferred to pBin19.

10 All the pBin19 constructs are transformed into *N. tabacum*, *B. napus* and *H. vulgare*. The transgenic plants are male-sterile.

15 Example 5 - Restoration of fertility of plants described in Example 4

Restoration of fertility is achieved by crossing the male sterile plants with transgenic plants that express in the tapetum a ribozyme that recognises and cleaves the sequence introduced into the 5' leader of the PCR A6 gene (the natural A6 mRNA lacks this sequence and is not cleaved). Cleavage of the leader (3' of the sequence GUC ie 14 bp 5' of the ATG initiating codon of the A6 gene) removes the cap site of the PCR A6 transcript leading to rapid degradation of the PCR A6 mRNA and consequently a restoration of fertility in the F1 progeny.

30 Example 6 - Construction of chimeric genes producing sense and anti-sense RNA to the anther-specific glucanase in transgenic plants

The A3 and A9 promoters are transcriptionally active during the period that the anther-specific glucanase is expressed. Thus these promoters in addition to a

constitutive promoter (CaMV promoter) and the A6 promoter can be used to express anti-sense and sense RNA to the anther-specific glucanase. As described above, and in WO-A-9211379, the cDNAs isolated from the anther library have terminal adapters that enable the cDNA to be recovered as a NotI fragment. Thus the *B. napus* cDNA is digested with NotI and cloned in both orientations into the NotI sites of pWP80, pWP83, pWP88 (see WO-A-9211379 for these three plasmids) and pDIH12 (Figure 7). These chimeric genes are transferred to pBin19 and transformed into *N. tabacum*, *B. napus*, *H. vulgare* and *Z. mays*. The transgenic plants are male-sterile. Cytological examinations of male sterile plants expressing anti-sense A6 RNA, showed that the release of microspores from the tetrads, which requires the degradation of callose, is delayed compared to wild-type plants or is completely absent. Biochemically, these male sterile plants have reduced or undetectable callase levels in the locule fluid of the anther. Both observations confirm that A6 encodes callase.

Example 7 - Restoration of fertility of the transgenic plants expressing anti-sense A6 RNA, described in Example 6

Restoration of fertility is achieved in two ways. First the male sterile plants are crossed with plants containing additional copies of the *A. thaliana* A6 gene (the 3.2 kb EcoRI fragment of pDIH9 is transferred to pBin19 and this construct transformed into plants). The additional gene copies overcome the down-regulation of the callase product induced by the expression of antisense A6 RNA, resulting in male fertile F1 progeny. Secondly, restoration of fertility in plants expressing

antisense A6 RNA is achieved by crossing these plants with plants homozygous for chimeric gene fusions between a tapetum-specific promoter eg A3, A6 or A9 and a ribozyme directed against a GUC sequence within the antisense A6 RNA transcript at position 787-790 bp (Figure 1) for example. In the F1 progeny cleavage of the antisense A6 transcript results in destabilisation of the antisense RNA and a consequent restoration of fertility.

10 Example 8 - Expression of ribozymes, directed against the callase transcript, in transgenic plants

15 Comparison of the nucleotide sequences of the *B. napus* A6 cDNA and the *A. thaliana* A6 genomic sequence (Figure 5a) reveals 12 GUC trinucleotides that are shared by both sequences and are potential ribozyme target sequences. Two ribozymes are inserted into the *B. napus* A6 cDNA sequence by site-directed mutagenesis. Single stranded DNA from the plasmid A6, which contains the A6 cDNA cloned into the EcoRI site of BLUESRIPT™ SK- (Stratagene), is annealed to the phosphorylated oligonucleotide primers shown below:-

20 5' CGGC GTCG TAGAG CTTCTGAAGATGGCCCGGTAGGGCCGAAACATGACCGGC 3' and
25 5' CGTT GGCT CCTTCCCTGAAGATGGCCCGGTAGGGCCGAAACCGGTACGCACC 3'

25 The first primer encodes a ribozyme that is targeted to cleave the GUC at position 102 bp in figure 1 and the second the GUC at position 1169 bp. The underlined portion of the primers encodes the ribozyme.

30 After annealing, the second DNA strand is completed with nucleotides and Klenow. A plasmid with both ribozyme inserts, detected by duplicate colony hybridizations using the ribozyme primers (end-labelled) as probes, is cloned as a *NotI* fragment, in the anti-sense orientation,

into pWP80, pWP83, pWP88 and pDIH12. The chimeric A3, CaMV 35S, A9 and A6 promoter-callase ribozyme genes are transferred to pBin19 as described for the plasmids in Example 6. The chimeric genes are transferred to pBin19 and transformed into *N. tabacum*, *B. napus* and *H. vulgare*.
5 The transgenic plants are male-sterile.

Example 9 - Restoration of fertility of the plants
described in Example 8

Crossing the male sterile plants with homozygous transgenic plants expressing (from the A3, A6, A9 or CaMV 35S promoters) a ribozyme that cleaves a GUC sequence in the callase(mRNA)-specific ribozyme, results in progeny 10 that are male fertile. The target GUC sequence for the restorer-ribozyme is located such that cleavage destabilises the target mRNA by either the removal of the CAP or the polyadenylation signal. This rapidly reduces the concentration of callase(mRNA)-specific ribozyme in 15 the cytoplasm and results in fertility restoration. This restorer-ribozyme is constructed from plasmid A6 in a similar way to that described in Example 8.
20

CLAIMS

1. Recombinant or isolated DNA encoding a callase enzyme.

5

2. DNA as claimed in claim 1, wherein the enzyme has the activity of a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.

10

3. DNA as claimed in claim 2, encoding a 53 kDa callase enzyme from *B. napus* or the equivalent enzyme from *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

15

4. DNA as claimed in claim 2 and having at least part of the sequence are shown in Figure 1 or Figure 4.

5. DNA as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the coding sequence is operatively linked to a promoter.

20

6. DNA as claimed in claim 5, wherein the promoter is tapetum-specific.

25

7. DNA as claimed in claim 6, wherein the promoter is a *Brassicaceae A3* or *A9* promoter.

8. Recombinant or isolated DNA comprising a promoter which naturally drives expression of a gene encoding a callase enzyme.

30

9. DNA as claimed in claim 8, wherein the callase enzyme is a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.

10. DNA as claimed in claim 9 comprising a promoter which drives expression of a 53 kDa callase enzyme from *B. napus* or the equivalent enzyme from *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
- 5
11. DNA as claimed in claim 9, including a promoter sequence naturally 5' to the coding region of the sequence shown in Figure 1.
- 10 12. DNA as claimed in claim 9, including the promoter 5' to the coding region of the sequence shown in Figure 4.
- 15 13. DNA as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the promoter is operatively linked to DNA which, when expressed, causes male sterility in a plant.
14. DNA as claimed in claim 13, wherein the male sterility DNA encodes a lytic enzyme.
- 20 15. DNA as claimed in claim 14, wherein the lytic enzyme causes lysis of nucleic acid, protein, carbohydrate or lipid.
- 25 16. DNA as claimed in claim 15, wherein the lytic enzyme is a ribonuclease or a deoxyribonuclease.
17. DNA as claimed in claim 14, wherein the lytic enzyme causes lysis of a carbohydrate.
- 30 18. DNA as claimed in claim 17 wherein the lytic enzyme is a glucanase.
- 35 19. DNA as claimed in claim 18 including a signal sequence in a translational fusion with the glucanase coding sequence.

20. DNA as claimed in claim 15, wherein the lytic enzyme causes lysis of a protein.
- 5 21. DNA as claimed in claim 20, wherein the proteolytic enzyme is actininidin or papain.
22. DNA as claimed in claim 13, wherein the male sterility DNA codes for RNA which is antisense to RNA normally found in a plant tapetum cell.
- 10 23. DNA as claimed in claim 22, wherein the male sterility DNA codes for RNA which is antisense to RNA encoding a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family
15 *Brassicaceae*.
24. Antisense nucleic acid which includes a transcribable strand of DNA complementary to at least part of the strand of DNA that is naturally transcribed
20 in a gene encoding a callase enzyme.
25. Antisense nucleic acid as claimed in claim 24 wherein the callase enzyme is a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member
25 of the family *Brassicaceae*.
26. Antisense nucleic acid as claimed in claim 24 or 25 wherein transcription is under the control of a constitutive promoter.
- 30 27. Antisense nucleic acid as claimed in claim 24 or 25 wherein transcription is under the control of a tapetum-specific promoter.

28. DNA as claimed in claim 13, wherein the male sterility DNA codes for RNA which is capable of cleavage of RNA normally found in a plant tapetum cell.
- 5 29. DNA as claimed in claim 28, wherein the male sterility DNA codes for RNA which is capable of cleavage of RNA encoding a callase enzyme, such as a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.
- 10 30. DNA encoding a ribozyme capable of specific cleavage of RNA encoded by a callase gene.
- 15 31. Ribozyme-encoding DNA as claimed in claim 30, wherein the callase gene encodes a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.
- 20 32. Ribozyme-encoding DNA as claimed in claim 30 or 31 wherein transcription is under the control of a constitutive promoter.
- 25 33. Ribozyme-encoding DNA as claimed in claim 30 or 31 wherein transcription is under the control of a tapetum-specific promoter.
- 30 34. DNA capable of specifically disrupting the proper expression of a callase gene.
35. DNA as claimed in claim 34, wherein the callase gene encodes a 53 kDa callase enzyme of *Brassica napus* or an equivalent protein in another member of the family *Brassicaceae*.

36. DNA as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 35 comprising a 3' transcription regulation sequence.
- 5 37. DNA as claimed in claim 36, wherein the 3' transcription regulation signals are derived from the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus 35S gene.
- 10 38. DNA as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 37 which is recombinant and which in the form of a vector.
- 15 39. DNA as claimed in claim 38, wherein the vector is a cloning vector and comprises one or more selectable markers.
- 20 40. A microbial host cell transfected or transformed with a vector as claimed in claim 38 or 39.
- 25 41. DNA as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 39, which includes a marker sequence which enables a plant transformed with the DNA to be distinguished from plants not so transformed.
- 30 42. DNA as claimed in claim 41, wherein the marker sequence confers antibiotic or herbicide resistance or codes for glucuronidase.
- 35 43. DNA as claimed in claim 41 or 42, wherein the marker sequence is under the control of a second promoter, which is not tapetum-specific.
- 40 44. DNA as claimed in claim 43, wherein the second promoter is derived from the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV) 35S gene.

45. A plant cell including DNA as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 39 and 41 to 44.

5 46. A plant or part of a plant at least some of whose cells are as claimed in claim 45.

47. Propagating material from a plant as claimed in claim 46.

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FIG. 1 (1/6)

DNA sequence of Brassica napus cDNA A6 and the deduced protein sequence of the ORF within A6.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | F | L | F | T | L | V | V | F | S | S | T | S | C | S | A | V | G | F | |
| CTTTCTCCCTTCAACCCCTCGTCGTTCAAGTACAAGTTGCTCAGCGGTTGGTTCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | H | P | H | R | Y | I | Q | K | K | T | M | L | E | L | A | S | K | I | G |
| AACATCCGGCACAGGTATAACAGAAAAAACCTACAGATAACAGGTTAGAGTAGCCAGCAAGATGGTA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 110 | 120 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | N | Y | G | R | Q | G | N | N | L | P | S | P | Y | Q | S | I | N | F | I |
| TTAACTATGGTAGACAAGGAAACCAACCTACCATCTCCTAACCAATCGATCAATTTCATCA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 130 | 140 | 150 | 160 | 170 | 180 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | L | I | K | A | G | H | V | K | L | Y | D | A | D | P | E | S | L | T | L |
| AACTCATCAAAGCCGGTCAAGGTCTACGACGCCGATCCAGAGACTAAACACTCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 190 | 200 | 210 | 220 | 230 | 240 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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FIG. 1 (2/6)

L S Q T N L Y V T I A V P T H Q I T S L
 TCTCTCAAATCTTACGTCAACCATAGGGTGCCAACCCACCCTCA
 250 260 270 280 290 300

S A N Q T T A E D W V K T N I L P Y Y P
 GCGCCAACCAAACCTACAGCTGAAGATTGGTCAAAACCATAATCCTCCCTACTACCCAC
 310 320 330 340 350 360

Q T Q I R F V L V G N E I L S V K D R N
 AACACAAATACGATTGTCCCTTGAAACGAAATCCTCTCCGTCAAAGATAGGAACA
 370 380 390 400 410 420

I T G N V V P A M R K I V N S L R A H G
 TAACCGGCAATGTCTGTACCGGCAATGGCAAATCGTGAACCTCTCAGAGCCCATTGGGA
 430 440 450 460 470 480

I H N I K V G T P L A M D S L R S T F P
 TTCACAAACATCAAAGTCGGTACACCTTAGCTATGGATTCTCTCGATCACAGTTCCGC
 490 500 510 520 530 540

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FIG. 1 (3/6)

P S N S T F R G D I A L P L M L P L L K
 CGTCGAACTCAACATCCGGGGAGATATCGCCTTACCGTTAATGTTGCCGTTGCTGAAGT
 550 560 570 580 590 600

F L N G T N S Y F F I N L Q P Y F R W S
 TTCTCAACGGAAACTCTTACTTCTTATCAATCTTCAACCTTACTTCCGTTGGTCAA
 610 620 630 640 650 660

R N P N H T T L D F A L F Q G N S T Y T
 GAAACCCTAACACACCACGGATTTCGCTCTGTGTTCAAGGAAACTCAACTTACCG
 670 680 690 700 710 720

D P H T G L V Y H N L V D Q M L D S V I
 ATCCTCATACCGGTTGGTTACCATTAATCTGTAGACCAAATGTTGGATTTCGGTTATCT
 730 740 750 760 770 780

F A M T K L G Y P Y I R I A I S E T G W
 TCGCCATGACCAAGCTCGGTTATCCATACATCCGTAATCGCAATCTGAAACCGGATGGC
 790 800 810 820 830 840

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FIG. 1 (4/6)

| P | N | S | G | D | I | D | E | I | G | A | N | V | F | N | A | A | T | Y | N |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| CTAACTCCGGGACATCGACGAAATCGGAGCTAACGTTTCAACGCCACGTATAACC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 850 | 860 | 870 | 880 | 890 | 880 | 890 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | |
| R | N | L | I | K | K | M | T | A | T | P | P | I | G | T | P | A | R | P | G |
| GGAATTGATCAAGAAGATGACCGCAACTCCACCAATCGGTACACCAAGCTAGACCCGGTT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 910 | 920 | 930 | 940 | 950 | 940 | 950 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | 960 | |
| S | P | I | P | T | F | V | F | S | L | F | N | E | N | K | K | P | G | S | G |
| CACCTATACCGACATTTGTTTCTCCTTATTAAACGAAAACAAAGAAACCCGGTCGGAA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 970 | 980 | 990 | 990 | 1000 | 1000 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1010 | 1020 |
| T | Q | R | H | W | G | I | L | H | P | D | G | T | P | I | Y | D | I | D | F |
| CACAAAGACATTGGGAATCTTGCATCCGGACGGTACACCAAATCTACGACATTGATTAA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1030 | 1040 | 1050 | 1060 | 1070 | 1060 | 1070 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | 1080 | |
| T | G | Q | K | P | L | T | G | F | N | P | L | P | K | P | T | N | N | V | P |
| CGGGTCAAAACCCCTTAACCGGTTAACCCCTCTGCCTAACCGACGAATAACGTTCCCT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1090 | 1100 | 1110 | 1120 | 1130 | 1120 | 1130 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | |

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FIG. 1 (5/6)

Y K G Q V W C V P V E G A N E T E L E E
 ACAAGGGTCAAGTGTGGTGCCTACCGGTCGAAGGAGCCAAACGAGACTGAGCTCGAGGAAG
 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200

A L R M A C A R S N T T C A A L V P G R
 CTTTGAGGGATGGCTTGTGCCGAAGCAACACCGAACGACGTGTGGCGCTTGGCAGAG
 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260

E C Y E P V S V Y W H A S Y A L N S Y W
 AATGTTACGAGCCCCGGTCTCTGTTATTGGCACGCCAAGCTACCGGCTTAACTCGTACTGGG
 1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320

A Q F R S Q N V Q C Y F N G L A H E T T
 CACAGTCCGTAGCCAAAACGTCCAATGGATTCAATGGCTCATGAGACCACGA
 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380

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FIG. 1 (6/6)

T N P G N D R C K F P S V T L *
CTAACCCCTGGAAATGATCGCTGGCAAGTTCTGGAGCGTTACTCTGTGAGGAAGAACGCCCTG
1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440

AAAGAGATTAAAGATGATCAAAGCTGGATTATTCGTATTACTCATCTAGATTCTCTGG
1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500

TTTCTGTTCTGGCTAATGTTGAGAAA
1510 1520 1530

FIG. 2 (1/5)

Alignment of the deduced primary structures of the *B.napus* and the *A.thaliana* A6 genes with the primary structure of previously described glucanases.

- * \Rightarrow match across all seqs.
 - . \Rightarrow conservative substitutions

**NPGLUC
BEAN
PR-Q
BARLEY
At G62
Bn A6**

ALQMAAIIILGLLVSSTEIVGAQSVGVCVYGMILGNNLPPASQV
 QIGVCYGMGMGNLPSANEV
 QFLFSLOMMAHLIVTLLLSVTLATLDFTGQAQAGVCYGRQQNGLPSPADV
 MARKDVASMEAAALFIGFAAVPTSVQSISGVCVYGVIGNNLP SRSDV
 MSILLAFFLFTLIVFSSSCSATRFQ-GHRYMQRKTMIDLAASKIGINYGRRGGNNLSPYQS
 EFLFTLIVFSSSTSCAVGFEQHPHRYIQKKKTMLEASKIGINYGRQGNNLSPYQS
 * . ** . ** . *

NPGLUC
BEAN
PR-Q
BARLEY
At G62
BD A6

VQLYKSKNIRRMRLYDPNQAAALQALRGSNIEVMLGVPPNSDLQNLQNIAANP SNANNWVQRNVR
INLYRSNNIRRMRLYDPNGAALGALRNSGIELLILGVPPNSDLQGLATNADTARQWVQRNVL
VSLLCNRNNIRRMRLYDPDQPTLEALRGSNIEIIMLGVPNPDLENVAAQSQANADTWVQNNVR
VQLYRSKGINGMRIYFADGQALSALRNSGIGLILDIGNDQLANIAASTSNAASWVQNNVR
INFIFKSIIKAGHVKKYDADPESLTLLSQTNLYVTITVPHQITALLSSNOTIADEWVRTNIL
INFIFKLHKAGHVKKYDADPESLTLLSQTNLYVTIAVPTHOITSLISANOTTAEDWYKTKTNIL

FIG. 2 (2/5)

| | | | | |
|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| NPGLUC | PR-Q | BARLEY | At G62 | Bn A6 |
| BEAN | | | | |

FIG. 2 (3/5)

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FIG. 2 (4/5)

| | |
|--------|---|
| NPGlUC | KYPLSFGFS--DRYWDISAEENNATAASLISEM |
| BEAN | KYPEGFGAQRMLLMMSSMQHIPLRVTCKLEPSSQSLL |
| PR-Q | KYQISFN |
| BARLEY | AYNIQF |
| At G62 | IYDVDFITGQTPLTGFNP LPKPTNNVP YKGQVWCV PVEGANETEELRMACAQSNNTCA |
| Bn A6 | IYDIDFTGQKPLTGENNPLPKPTNNVP YKGQVWCV PVEGANETEELRMACARSNTCA |
| | * |
| At G6 | AIAPGRECYEPVSIYWHASYALNSYWAQFRNQS IQOFFNGLAHETTTNP GNDRCKFP |
| Bn A6 | ALVPGRECYEPVSVYWHASYALNSYWAQFRSQNVQCYFNGLAHETTTNP GNDRCKFP |
| | |
| At G62 | SVTL |
| Bn A6 | SVTL |

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FIG. 2 (5/5)

NPGLUC- Tobacco B 1,3-glucanase (Basic):
De Loose M., Alliotte T., Gheysen G., Genetello C., Gielen J., Soetaert P.,
Van Montagu M. and Inz D. (1988) Gene 20, 13-23

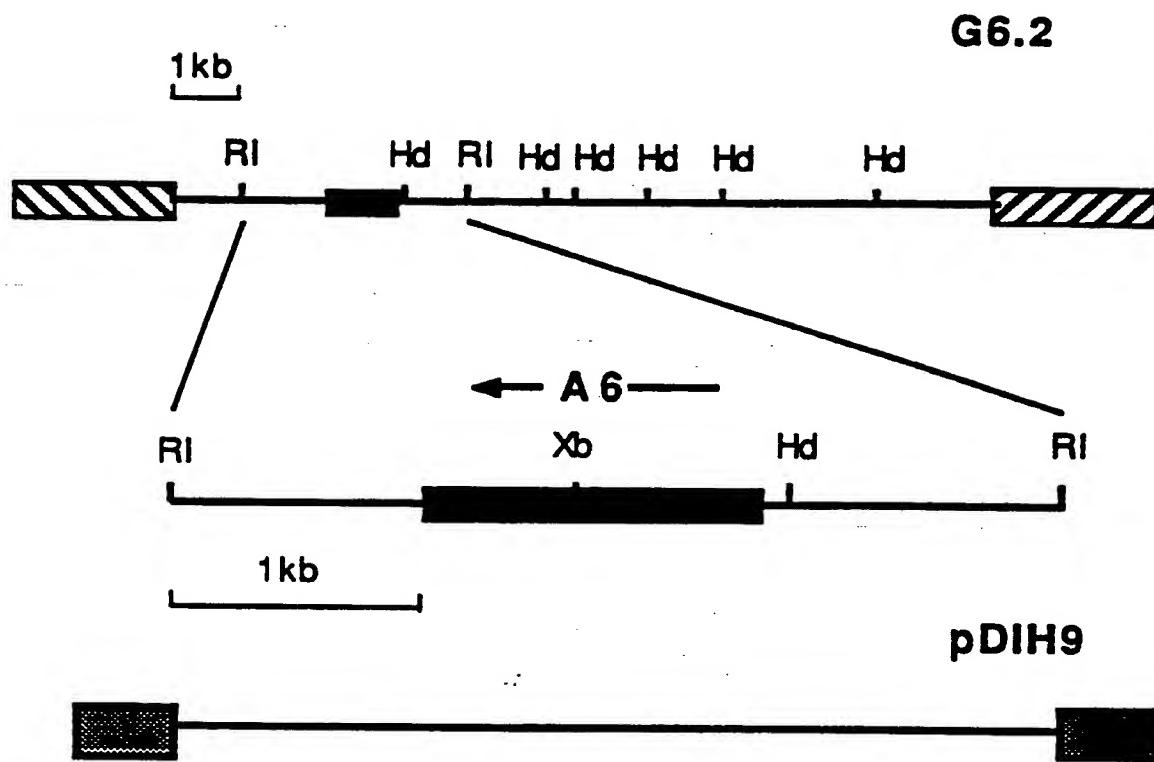
BEAN - Bean B 1,3-glucanase:-
Edington, B.V., Lamb, C.J. and Dixon, R.A. (1991) Plant Mol. Biol. 16, 81-94

PR-Q - Tobacco B 1,3-glucanase (Extra-cellular):-
Payne, G., Ward, E., Gaffney, T., Ahl Goy, P., Moyer, M., Harper, A., Meins, F.Jr.
and Ryals, J. (1990) Plant Mol. Biol. 15, 797-808.

BARLEY- Barley B 1,3-glucanase:-
Hoj, P.B., Hartman, D.J., Morrice, N.A., Doan, D.N.P. and Fincher, G.B. (1989)
Plant Mol. Biol. 13, 31-42.

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FIG. 3



Key to DNA sequences

- Arabidopsis
- ▨ Lambda Dash
- pTZ18 vector
- A6 coding region

13139

FIG. 4 (1/9)

DNA sequence of the A.thaliana A6 gene together
with the deduced primary structure of A6.

GAATTCACACAAGCAATTAAACCAAGTTAACCAAATCCC
10 20 30 40 50 60

TTCTACAGCCTAACCGTATTCTGAGATCTGTAAACAGAGTCATG
70 80 90 100 110 120

TCGAGCTGACCGGGAGCGGCACCGATTGACTCGTCGAGCGTGTAAA
130 140 150 160 170 180

TTGTTCCATTCAAGGTCTGTAGGTAATAACCACCGAGCTGCTCCTGGATATTGAAATTAA
190 200 210 220 230 240

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FIG. 4 (2/9)

CGACCGTTGGTCCAGTCGTACCAAGGTCTGATCATCGAGAGATCGGCCGGAGTAATTCTATG
250 260 270 280 290 300

AACATTAGCGCGTGGAACTGGTGTGGCCATGGCGTGGCACCCGGCTCATCCGGCGGGCA
310 320 330 340 350 360

TTTTCACGGCGGTTATAAATGAAGATAACGATTACTATGAGTGGTCGTCATAAAG
370 380 390 400 410 420

CCATGTGTATCAGTGTGGTACTGAAGTTGGTCTGACGGAAAGATAAATTAAATAAC
430 440 450 460 470 480

TATATAGTATAACAGTTCTTAAATTCTACATAATTGTATCATCGAACATACATT
490 500 510 520 530 540

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FIG. 4 (3 / 9)

AGTCCATTAGTCTACTAAACTCATTATTGATGTATAATCTCAATCTCAATCAGAAAT
550 560 570 580 590 600

GTATTGCAAATTAAACAATATTGGGAAAGTGTTCTGGTTCAATTGAAACCGATCCA
610 620 630 640 650 660

ACCAACAATCCTTTAAAATCATAGCACAAAGAACATATGAGAGTTCAAAAGAAAATC
670 680 690 700 710 720

AAAAGCCAAAACAAAGCTTTCTGCATGACTCAATAACCTACACTACACCATACTCTT
730 740 750 760 770 780

ACTTATAAACCTCATCTCCAAATGCCACACCATCCATCTTAAATCACATTCTGATCATC
790 800 810 820 830 840

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FIG. 4 (4/9)

ACCAACATGGCAAACCAACCAGACACAAACACAAAGACATGTCCTTGCCTTCT
 850 M S L L A F
 860 880 890 900
 F L F T I L V F S <-----
 TCCTCTTACCCATCCTTGTCCTTCAAGTAAGTCATCTTAATAATGCATCATGTTACAT
 910 920 930 940 950 960
 -----intron----->S S C C
 TTTCTTTACGTAATTGCCATTGAAACATGGTTTCTTGCCTTACAGGTTACATGTTGT
 970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080
 S A T R F Q G H R Y M Q R K T M L D L A
 TCCGGCAACTCGGTTCCAAGGGCACAGGTACATGCAGAGGAAAACAAATGCTAGATTGGCT
 1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140

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FIG. 4 (5/9)

I N F I K S I K A G H V K L Y D A D P E
ATCAACTTCATCAAATCTATCAAAGCTGGTCAATGTCAAGCTCTATGACGCCGATCCAGAG
1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200

S L T L L S Q T N L Y V T I T V P N H Q
AGTCTCACACTCCTCTCATCAAACCAATCTACGTICACCATAACCGTCCCTAACCAACCAA
1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260

I T A L S S N Q T I A D E W V R T N I L
ATCACCGCCCTCAAGCTCTAACCAACCATAGCTGACGAATGGTCAGAACTAACATCCTC
1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320

P Y Y P Q T Q I R F V L V G N E I L S Y
CCTTACTATCCACAAACACAATCCGTTTGTCTGGAAACGAAATCCTCAGCTAC
1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380

N S G N V S V N L V P A M R K I V N S L
AATTCTGGAAATGTCTGTGAATCTTGTACCGGGATGCCAAGATCGTTAACTCACTC
1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440

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FIG. 4 (6/9)

R L H G I H N I K V G T P L A M D S L R
 AGATTACATGGGATTCAACATCAAAGTTGGGACACCTCTAGCTATGGATTCTCTCCGG
 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500

S S F P R S N G T F R E E I T G P V M L
 TCGTCGTTCTCGATCGAACGGAACATTCCGGAAAGAAATCACCGGACCGGTGATGTTA
 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560

P L L K F L N G T N S Y F F L N V H P Y
 CCGTTGCTGAAGTTCCTAACCGGAACAAACTCTACTTCTTAATGTTCATCCTTAC
 1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620

F R W S R N P M N T S L D F A L F Q G H
 TTCCGGTGGTCAAGAAACCCATGAACACCAAGTTGGATTGCTCTGTTCCAAGGACAC
 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680

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FIG. 4 (7/9)

S T Y T D P Q T G L V Y R N L L D Q M L
 TCAACCTATAACCGATCCTCAAACCGGTTGGTTAACCGTAATCTCTAGACCCAATGTTG
 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750

D S V L F A M T K L G Y P H M R L A I S
 GATTGGTCTCTGCCATGACCAAACTCGGTTATCCACATATGCCCTCGCGATCTCT
 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800

E T G W P N F G D I D E T G A N I L N A
 GAAACGGATGGCCTAATTTCGGTGACATCGACGAAACGGAGCCAACATTCTAACCGCA
 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860

A T Y N R N L I K K M S A S P P I G T P
 GCTACCTATAACCGTAATCTGATCAAGAAGATGAGGGCAAGTCCCTCCAAATCGGTACACCA
 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930

S R P G L P I P T F V F S L F N E N Q K
 TCAAGACCCGGTTACCAATAACCGACATTGTTCTCCTTATTCAACGAAAACAGAA
 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990

S G S G T Q R H W G I F D P D G S P I Y
 TCCGGTTGGGGACACAGAGACATTGGGAATCTCGATCCCGACGGTTACCAATCTAC
 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

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FIG. 4 (8/9)

D V D F T G Q T P L T G F N P L P K P T
 GACGTAGATTTCACCGGTCAAACACCCCTTAACCGGTTAACCTAAACCGACG
 2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100

N N V P Y K G Q V W C V P V E G A N E T
 AACAAACGTTCCCTTACAAAGGTCAAGTGTGGTGCCTACCAACTGGAGCCAACGAGACT
 2110 2120 2130 2140 2150 2160

E L E E T L R M A C A Q S N T T C A A L
 GAGCTTGAAAGAAACATTGAGGATGGCTTGCCAAAGCAAACACCACCTGGCAGCTTA
 2170 2180 2190 2200 2210 2220

A P G R E C Y E P V S I Y W H A S Y A L
 GCTCTGGAGAGAATGTTACGAACCAAGCTCCATTATTGGCATGGCTACGGCGCTT
 2230 2240 2250 2260 2270 2280

N S Y W A Q F R N Q S I Q C F F N G L A
 AATTCTGTACTGGGCTCAGTTCTGTAACCAAGCATTCATGGATGGCT
 2290 2300 2310 2320 2330 2340

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FIG. 4 (9 / 9)

H E T T N P <----- intron ----->
CATGAGACAAACCAACCCCTGGTGAGCCATTCTTTGTAGTTCCAAATTAGACCAA
2350 2360 2370 2380 2390 2400

----->G N D R C K F
TAACCTTTCTGTATAGTCACTAACAAAGATTTCACAGGAAATGATCGTTGCAAGTTC
2410 2420 2430 2440 2450 2460

P S V T L *
CGAGCGTTACTCTGTGAGGGAGCTTGAGGAAGAACATGATTAAAGCTGGATTATT
2470 2480 2490 2500 2510 2520

CGTATAACTCAAATAATGTTCCCTTATCTTTTTATTACCTTTTT
2530 2540 2550 2560

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Alignment of the DNA sequences of the *A.thaliana* A6 gene and the *B.napus* A6 cDNA.

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FIG. 5a (2/8)

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FIG. 5a (3/8)

| | | |
|------|--|------|
| 286 | AGATCACTCCCTCAGGCCAACCAAACACTACAGCTGAAGATTGGGTCAAA | 335 |
| 1309 | ACTAACATCCCTTACTATCCACAAACACAATCCCGTTTGTCTCTTG | 1358 |
| 336 | ACCAATATCCCTTACTACCCACAAACACAAATAACGATTGTCTTGT | 385 |
| 1359 | CGGAAACGAAATCCTCAGCTACAATTCTGGGAATGTCTCTGTGAATCTTG | 1408 |
| 386 | TGGAAACGAAATCCTCTCGTCAAAGATAAGAACATAACCGGCAATGTTCG | 435 |
| 1409 | TACCGGGATGGCAAGATCGTAACACTCACTCAGATTACATGGATTTCAC | 1458 |
| 436 | TACCGGGCAATGGAAAATCGTAACACTCTCAGAGCCCCATGGATTTCAC | 485 |
| 1459 | AACATCAAAGTTGGACACCTCTAGCTATGGATTCTCCGGTCTCGTT | 1508 |
| 486 | AACATCAAAGTGGTACACCTTTAGCTATGGATTCTCCGATCAACAGTT | 535 |

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FIG. 5a (4/8)

1509 TCCTCGATCGAACATTCCGGAAAGAACATTACCGGACCGGTGATGT 1558
 ||| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 536 TCCGCCGTGAACTCAACATTCCGGGAGATAACCGCTTACCGTTAATGT 585

1559 TACCGTTGCTGAAGTTCTCAACGGAACAAACTCTTACTTCCTTCAATT 1608
 ||| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 586 TGCCGTTGCTGAAGTTCTCAACGGAACAAACTCTTACTTCCTTCAATT 635

1609 GTTCATCCTTACTTCCGTTGGTCAAGAAACCCCATGAACACCAGTTGGA 1658
 ||| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 636 CTTCAAACCTTACTTCCGTTGGTCAAGAAACCCCTAATCACACCACGGT 685

1659 TTTTGCTCTGTTCCAAGGACACTCAAACCTATAACCGATCCCTAAACCGGT 1708
 ||| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 686 TTTCGGCTCTGTTCCAAGGAAACTCAAACCTATAACCGATCCCTACCCGGT 735

1709 TGGTTTACCGTAATCTTAGACCAATGTTGGATTCTCGGTTCTCTCGCC 1758
 ||| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 736 TGGTTTACCCATAATCTTAGACCAATGTTGGATTCTCGGTTATCTTCGCC 785

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FIG. 5a (5/8)

| | | |
|------|--|------|
| 1759 | ATGACCAAACTCGGTTATCCACATATGCCCTCGGGATCTCTGAAACCGG | 1808 |
| 786 | ATGACCAAGCTCGGTTATCCACATCCGTATCGCAAATCTCTGAAACCGG | 835 |
| 1809 | ATGGCCTAATTTCGGTGACATCGACGAAACGGGAGCCAACATTCTCAAACG | 1858 |
| 836 | ATGGCCTAACTCCGGGACATCGACGAAATCGGAGGCTAACGTTTCTCAAACG | 885 |
| 1859 | CAGCTACCTATAACCGTAATCTGATCAAGAAGATGAGGGCAAGTCCTCCA | 1908 |
| 886 | CGGCCACGTATAACCGGAATTGATCAAGAAGATGACCGCAACTCCACCA | 935 |
| 1909 | ATCGGTACACCATTCAAGACCCCCGTTACCAATTACCGACATTGTTTCTC | 1958 |
| 936 | ATCGGTACACCAGCTAGACCCGGTTCACCTATACCGACATTGTTTCTC | 985 |
| 1959 | CTTATTCAACGAAAACCAAGAAATCCGGTTCGGGACACAGAGACATTGGG | 2008 |
| 986 | CTTATTAAACGAAAACAAAGAAACCCGGTTCGGGAACACAAAGACATTGGG | 1035 |

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FIG. 5a (6/8)

2009 GAATCTCGATCCGACGGTTACCAATCTACGACGTTACCGGT 2058
|||||
1036 GAATCTTGATCCGACGGTACACCAATCTACGACATTACCGGT 1085

2059 CAAACACCCTAACCGGTTAACCCGGTACCTAACCGAACAAACGT 2108
|||||
1086 CAAAACCCCTAACCGGTTAACCCCTCTGCCTAACCGAACATAACGT 1135

2109 TCCTTACAAAGGTCAAAGTGTGGTGGCTTACCAAGTCCGAAGGGCCAAACGAGA 2158
|||||
1136 TCCTTACAAAGGTCAAAGTGTGGTGGCTTACCGGTCCGAAGGGCCAAACGAGA 1185

2159 CTGAGCTTGAAAGAACATTGAGGATGGCTGTGCCAAAGCAACACACT 2208
|||||
1186 CTGAGCTCGAGGAAGCTTGGGATGGCTGTGCCGAAGCACACGACG 1235

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FIG. 5a (7/8)

| | | |
|-------|---|------|
| 2209 | TGTGGCAGCTTACGGCTTAATTCTGACTGGCTCAGTTCGTAACC | 2258 |
| 11236 | TGTGGGCTTACGGCTTAATTCTGACTGGCTCAGTTCGTAACC | 2308 |
| 2259 | TTGGCATGCCAAGCTAACGGCTTAATTCTGACTGGCTCAGTTCGTAACC | 2308 |
| 11286 | TTGGCACGCCAAGCTAACGGCTTAATTCTGACTGGCTCAGTTCGTAACC | 1335 |
| 2309 | AAAGCATTCAATGTTCTTCAATGGATTGGCTCATGAGACAACCAAC | 2358 |
| 11336 | AAAACGTCCTAACGGATTAGCTCATGAGACCCAGACTAAC | 1385 |

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FIG. 5a (8/8)

2359 CCTGGTGA
| || |
1386 CCTG.....

2409 TCGTAGTCA
.....
2409 TCCGAGCGT

2459 TCCGAGCGT
| || | | | | | |
1409 TCCGAGCGT

2509 AGCTGGATT
| | | | | | | |
1459 CAAAGCTGGATT

2559 ATACCTTTT

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FIG. 5b (1/3)

Alignment of the putative polypeptides encoded
by the *A.thaliana* A6 gene and the *B.napus* cDNA
A6.

Percent Similarity: 90 Percent Identity: 83

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| At | 1 | MSLLAFFELFTILVSSSSCCSATRFQ. GHRYMQRKTMLDLASKIGNYGRQ | 49 |
| | | : .: . . : : . | |
| Bn | 1 |FFLETFLVVFSSSTS CAVGFQHPHRYIQKKTMLELASKIGNYGRQ | 45 |
| | | : : : : . | |
| | 50 | GNNLPPSPYQSINFIKSIKAGHVVKLYDADPESLTLISQTNLYYVTITVPNHQ | 99 |
| | | : : : : : : : . | |
| | 46 | GNNLPPSPYQSINFIKLIKAGHVVKLYDADPESLTLISQTNLYYVTIAVPTHQ | 95 |
| | | : : : : : . | |

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FIG. 5b (2/3)

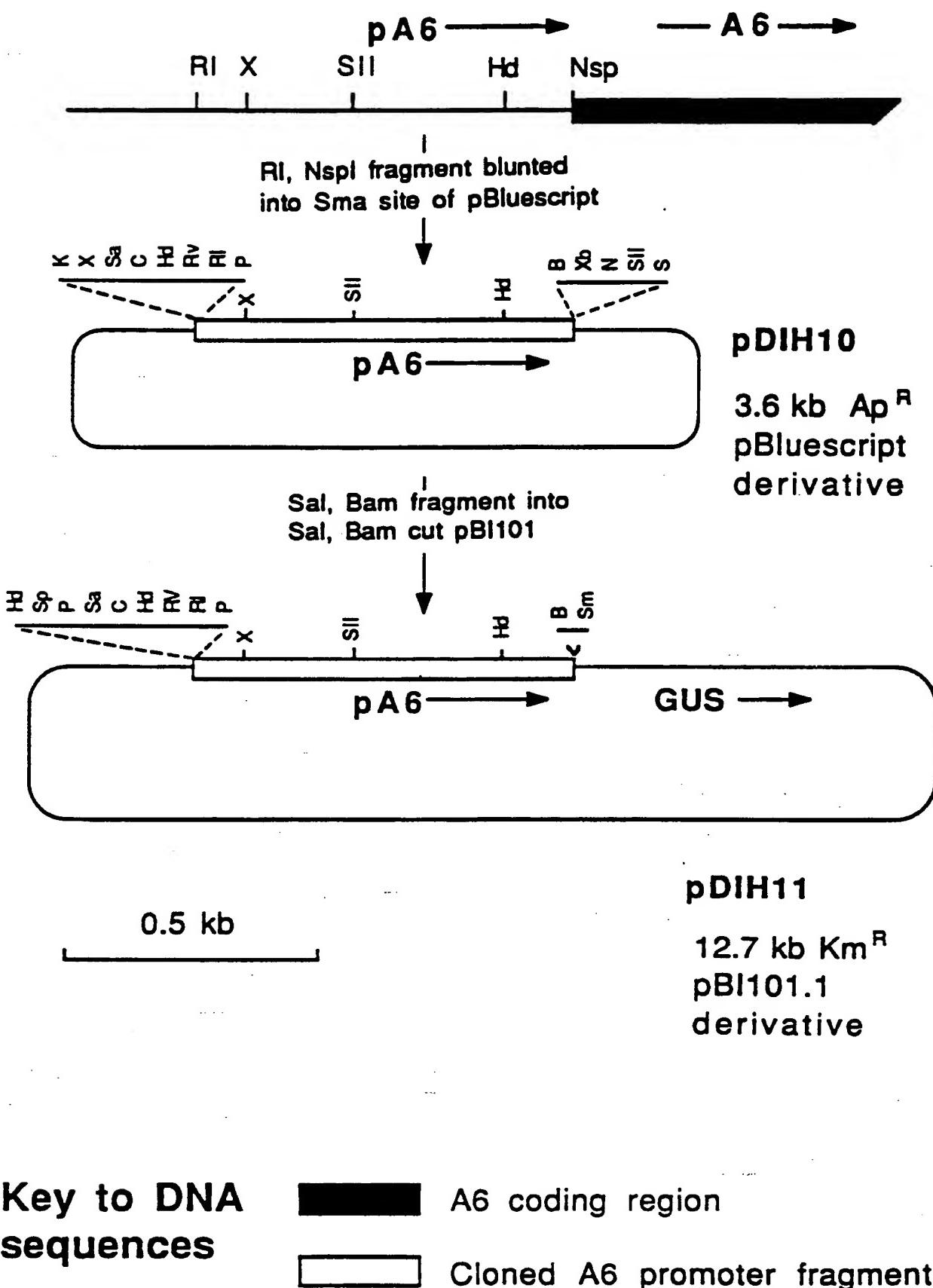
| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 100 | ITALSSNQTTIADEWVRTNILPYYPPQTQIREFVLVGNELISYNSGNVSVNLY | 149 |
| 111 | . .: : : : : : : : : | |
| 96 | ITSISANQTTAEDWVKTNILPYYPPQTQIREFVLVGNELISVKDRNITGNVV | 145 |
| 150 | PAMRKIVNSLRLHGIHNIKVGTPLAMDLSRSSLSEPRSNGLFREEITGPVML | 199 |
| 146 | : : : : : : : : : | |
| 146 | PAMRKIVNSLRAHGIHNIKVGTPLAMDLSLRSTEPSNSTFRGDIALPLML | 195 |
| 200 | PLLKFLNGTNSYFFFLNVHPYFRWSRNPMMNTSLDFALFQGHISTYTDPQTGL | 249 |
| 196 | : : : : : : : : : | |
| 200 | PLLKFLNGTNSYFFFLNVHPYFRWSRNPMMNTSLDFALFQGNSTYTDPHTGL | 245 |
| 250 | VYRNLLDQMLDSVLFAMTKLGYPHMRLAISETGWPNFGLIDETGANILNA | 299 |
| 246 | : : : : : : : : : | |
| 246 | VYHNLVDQMLDSVIFAMTKLGYPYIRIAISETGWPNSGDIETGANVFNNA | 295 |

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FIG. 5 b (3/3)

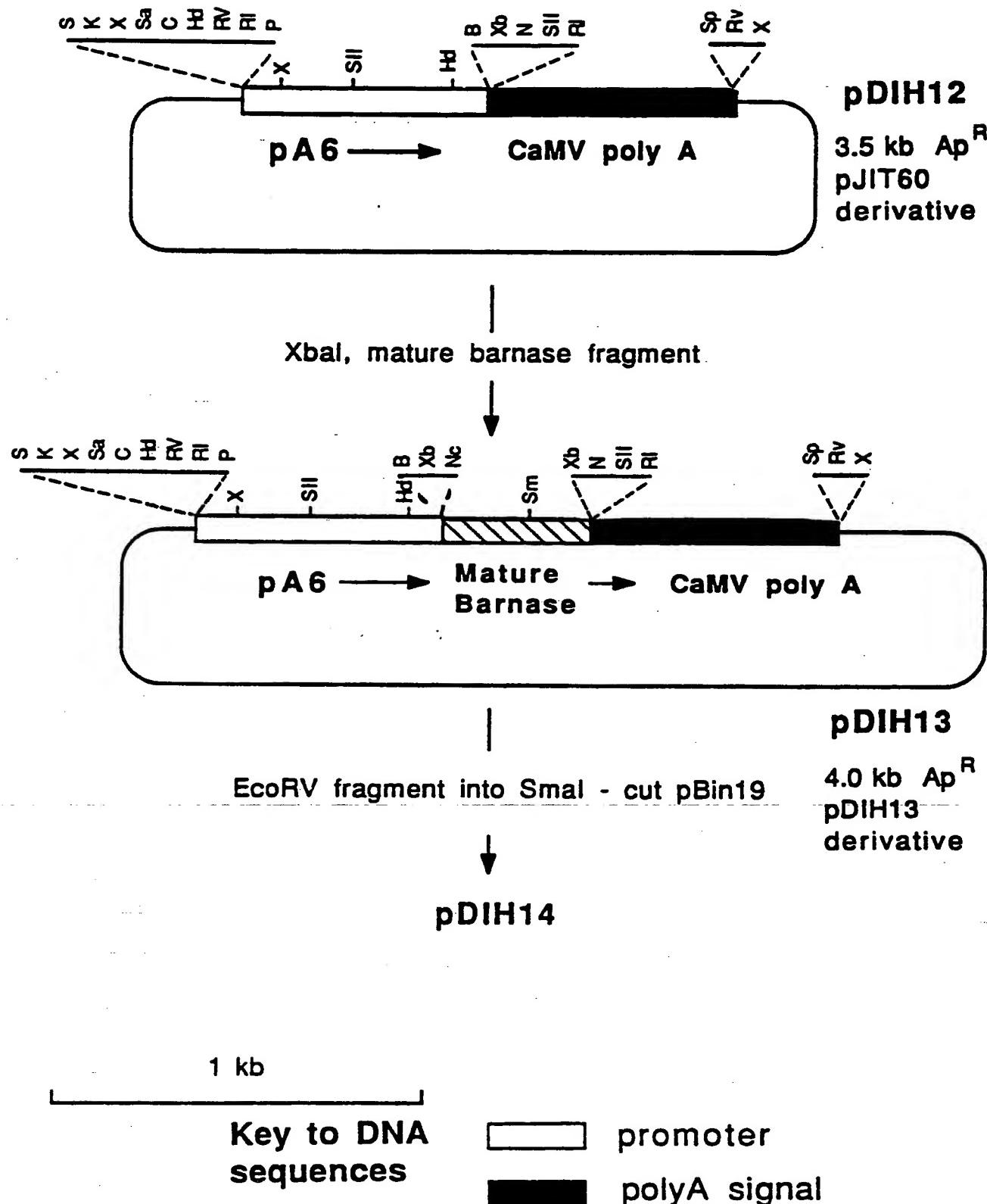
300 ATYNRNLIKKMSASPPIGTPSRPGPLIPIPTEVFSLENENQSGSGTQRHWG 349
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
296 ATYNRNLIKKMTATPPIGTPARPGSPPIPTEVFSLENENKKPGSGTQRHWG 345
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
350 IFDPDGSPPIYDVFDTGQTPLTGFNPLPKPTNNVPGQVWCVPEGANET 399
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
346 ILHPDGTPPIYDIDFTGQKPLTGFNPLPKPTNNVPGQVWCVPEGANET 395
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
400 ELEETLRCMACAQSNNTCAALAPGRECYEPVSIYWHASYALNSYWAQFRNQ 449
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
396 ELEEAIRMACARSNTTCAALVPGRECYEPVSVYWHASYALNSYWAQFRSQ 445
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
450 SIQCFNGLAHETTTNPGNDRCKFPSVTL 479
|: . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
446 NVQCYFNGLAHETTTNPGNDRCKFPSVTL 474

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FIG. 6



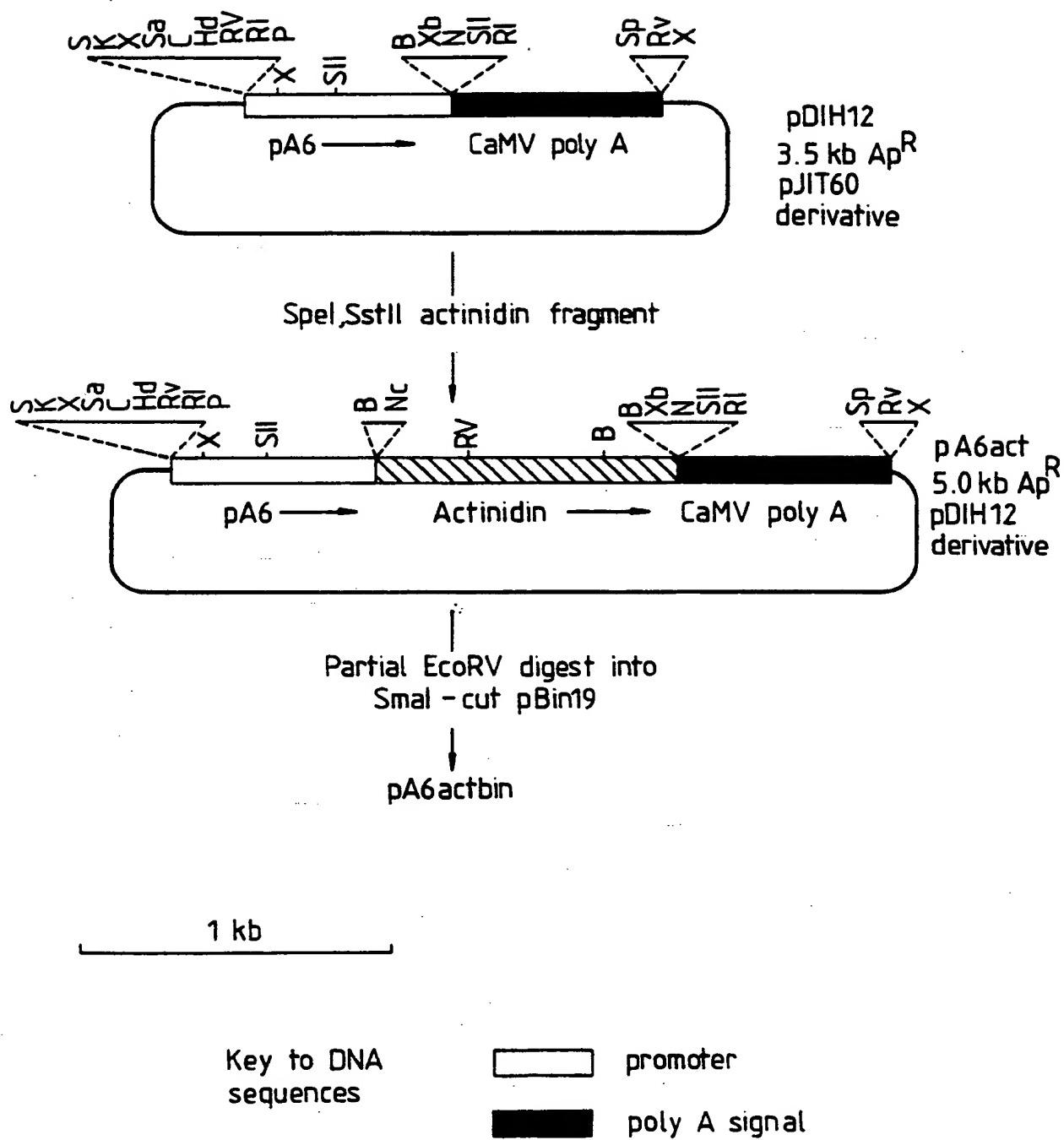
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FIG. 7a



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FIG. 7b



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pDIH16
 5.3 kb Ap^R
 pWP80ncol
 derivative

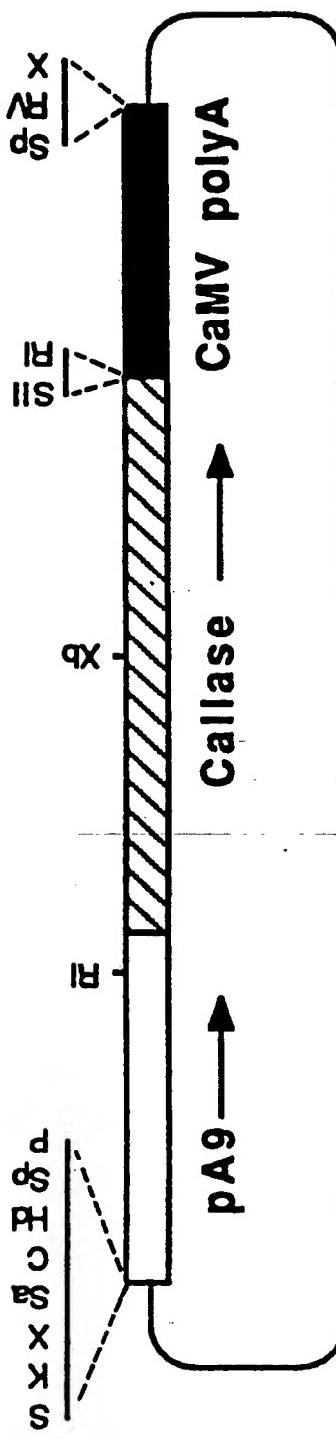
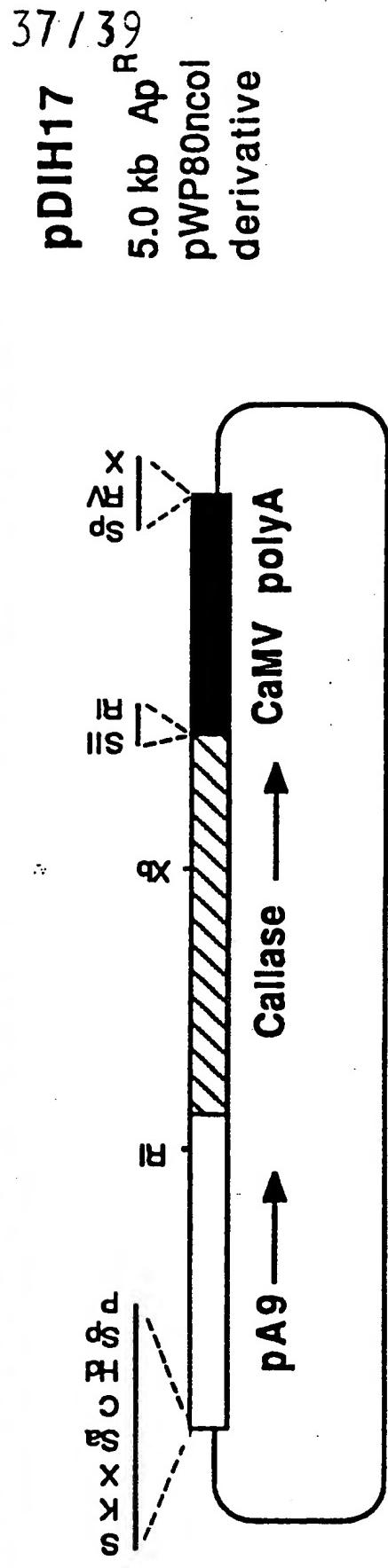


FIG. 8 (1/3)

a) Fusion of the A9 promoter to the *Arabidopsis thaliana* callase gene

FIG. 8 (2/3)

b) Fusion of the A6 and A9 promoters to C-terminal truncated callase



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FIG. 8 (3/3)

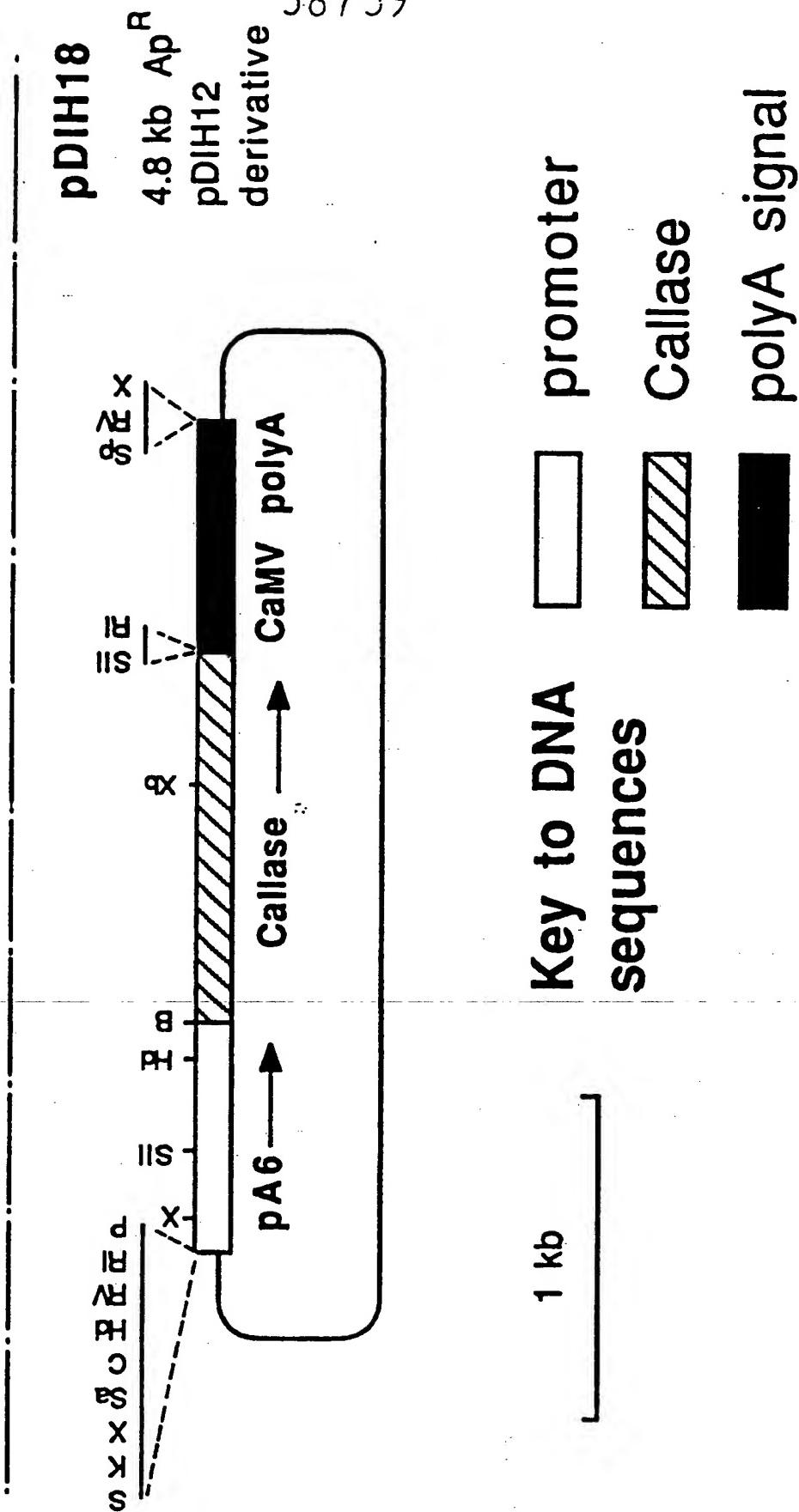
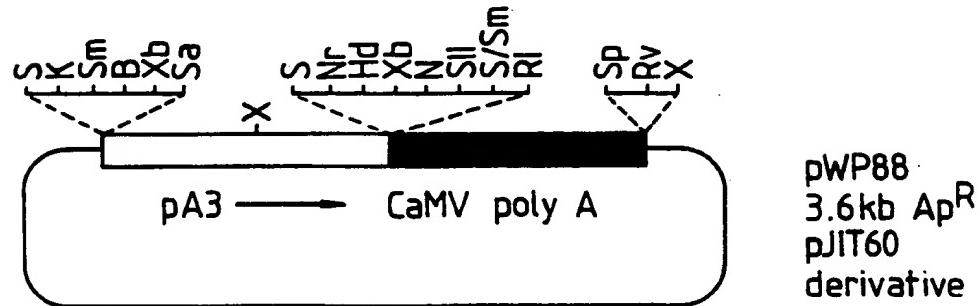
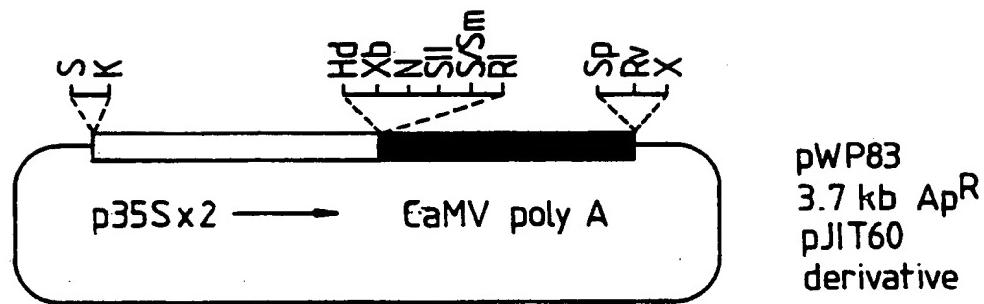
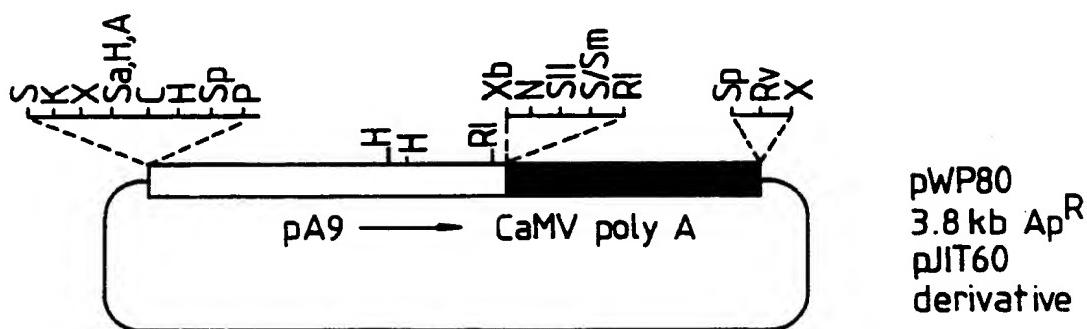
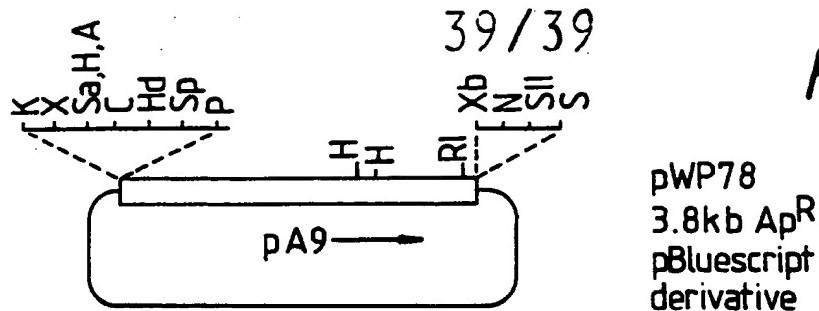


FIG. 9



1 kb

Key to DNA
sequences

[] promoter

[] poly A signal

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 92/01354

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all)⁶

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

Int.Cl. 5 C12N15/56; C12N9/24; C12N15/82; C12N9/00
 C12N15/11; A01H5/00

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched⁷

| Classification System | Classification Symbols |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Int.Cl. 5 | C12N ; A01H |

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched⁸III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹

| Category ¹⁰ | Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹² | Relevant to Claim No. ¹³ |
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| X | J. EXP. BOT., 1990 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY vol. 41, 1990, SUPPL. page P5-3 SCOTT, R., ET AL. 'Identification of genes exhibiting cell-specific and temporal regulation in developing anthers of Brassica-napus' see abstract P5.09 --- | 1-3, 38-40 |

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¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents:

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- ^O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- ^P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- ^T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- ^Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- [&] document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search

30 OCTOBER 1992

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report

16. 11. 92

International Searching Authority

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Signature of Authorized Officer

MADDOX A.D.

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**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. GB 9201354
SA 62495**

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| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
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